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お兄ちゃんだけど愛さえあれば関係ないよね
鈴木大輔
閏月戈
Daisuke Suzuki
Illustration
MF文庫
J

お兄ちゃんだけど愛さえあれば関係ないよねっ

Daisuke Suzuki
鈴木大輔
Illustration
閏月戈

3

「さて、表紙で銀兵衛さんが渾身の投げキッスを披露してくれたところですが。他にも**秘蔵のピンナップ**が存在するんですよっ」

「たとえばこちらは寝起きの銀兵衛さんですね。**無防備にあくび**なんかしちゃってます。むうっ、悔しいけど可愛い……！」

「こちらはお着替え中の銀兵衛さん。下着の趣味がちょっと地味めですけど、そういう**素朴さ**も**好感度UP**な感じというか。……ううっ、わたしももっとがんばらないと！」

「こちらは学園でのひとコマね。
彼女って可愛いだけじゃなくて頭もいいから、
こういう**キリッとした表情**も様になってるわ。
ええそれはもう、ついついお持ち帰りしたくなってしまうほどに」

「まだまだ続きがあるわよ。
こちらは割烹着姿のぎんぎんね。
古くさい割烹着と
幼い容姿とのギャップが、
正直とても萌えるわ」

「さーてお待ちかねのお風呂シーンだな。
いやしかし、こいつの**お肌がまたほんと綺麗**なんだわ。
ビニール傘か何かみたいに
ばっちんばっちん水を弾くんだぜ？」

「おまけに**寝顔のこれまた可愛い**こと。
これじゃつい、あたしが性欲を
持て余しちまうのもしょうがねえよな。
早くこいつもあたしの愛人になってくんねえかなー」

早持こ

四月十二日（PM5:30）（学生寮・引っ越し当日） 011
四月十三日（AM5:00）（学生寮・管理人室） 031
同日（AM6:15）（学生寮・食堂） 064
同日（AM8:30）（学生寮・玄関前廊下） 082
同日（AM9:00）（学生寮・二階フロア） 099
同日（AM10:30）（学生寮・中庭） 119
同日（PM0:15）（学生寮・食堂） 141
同日（PM7:15）（学生寮・食堂） 164
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contents

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 1: 12th April, PM5:30

After doing Hyouketsu Kyoukai for so long, Onii-ai suddenly seems so much harder to translate in comparison.

Enjoy.
****

Let's start with a greeting.

"We were forced to be separated from each other due to some incident. However, we have somehow came to live together as siblings once again, under the same roof. This is a boring monotonous story that records us living our lives smoothly day to day, without any major incidents happening - just like calm flowing water."

That's how it should have been. In the end, the world is just not as simple as we have wished for it to be.

Things are going out of control, and is heading towards a very chaotic but happy direction.

The students hostel should originally have us siblings live together by ourselves in a simple fashion. But what sort of a stable ordinary life am I to expect, when a bunch of attention-grabbing students' council members came moving into the hostel as well.

Ultimately, it was precisely because I was looking forward to that ordinary life, that resulted in me going through great pains so that I can

live with my sister again - though it's already too late for any regrets.

Perhaps something huge will occur. Even if it develops in an unexpected manner, please do not be too shocked about it. Depending on situations, we may even have some blockbuster scenes up for show.

I did feel that service scenes were quite unlikely to happen, because originally, the two people involved are siblings - but every one of those people who have just moved in is indeed a beauty. It has resulted in a situation where a guy is living together with four girls under the same roof - if so, I should say that it will be unnatural for none of that to happen.

But whatever.

Even though things has turned out to be totally opposite of what I had expected, it does not mean that it is a bad thing.

Seito-kaichou Nikaido-senpai, Fuku-kaichou Nasuhara, and needless to say, my good friend Ginbe - all of them are real deals in terms of their capabilities. Ignoring the point of them being difficult to handle, they are indeed my precious colleagues who will usually bring about a good influence with them. It is not what I had wished for, but at the same time it is a situation where I could not have asked for anything more either.

Not just for me, but for my younger sister Akiko too. This is probably the best situation for us to thoroughly hone and improve ourselves.

If so, then there is nothing much to grumble about.

I should not be complaining about how it is going against my plans.

Instead, shouldn't I face this once-in-a-lifetime encounter optimistically, and live through my thoroughly wonderful school life with enthusiasm—

"Impossible."

..... Just like that. It's a pity, but my stand was rejected in an instant.

"Impossible. It makes no sense. There is no need for consideration. This hostel is for the personal use of Onii-chan and me only, the love-nest that belonged to the two of us. It is fine if they are just those people selling newspapers or preaching about religion - people that will come and leave in a snap. But they are actually moving in, and I have to live with that group of students' council members as well? Nope, impossible, that can't do. I totally cannot accept such a situation."

At the caretaker's room of the hostel ran by St. Ririana Academy, which is also the living room of us two siblings.

With her eyebrows arched upwards and a seething expression, my sister Akiko was voicing her dissent against our current situation.

"Onii-chan, hear me out. It has not even been month, you know?"

"Mmm. That's right."

"Us siblings have reunited after so long, and we are finally able to live together again. It has not even been a month. Us both have barely enjoyed our sweet lovey-dovey life between ourselves, and yet such a life is about to get destroyed - how can I let such a barbaric thing happen? Because it has been six years, you know? We have endured through the six years to finally obtain the life of us siblings living together inseparably, you know?"

"Mmm. Indeed."

"I had clenched my teeth and endured through these six years. Despite the two of us being the only ones left in our family, we were separated

by force. However, I still listened to Onii-chan, and have always been a good girl. In order not to embarrass myself should the day that I can live with Onii-chan comes once again, I have set harsh standards on myself - as a reward, I can finally live a life like this. Isn't that right, Onii-chan?"

"Mhmm. You are right."

"I have enrolled into a well-known school, St. Ririana Academy, with my excellent grades. Even after enrolling into the school, my grades have maintained among the top three in rankings. Right now, in the students' council that has a lot of responsibilities, I have also gloriously taken on the important role as the secretary.

"Mhmm. You are really impressive."

"And that's not all. Flower arrangement, the arts of tea ceremony - I have learned the whole set of skills as well; I am also proficient in cooking and the rest of the household chores; Most importantly, I've worked tirelessly in order to grow up to be the cute girl that Onii-chan will love. Onii-chan should recognize these fruits of my hard work."

"Ah- mmm. You have really grown up to be a good girl. You are someone who will not embarrass me wherever you go, and is my younger sister whom I am proud of."

"However, based on the current situations, I think the rewards are way too meager, as compared to the results that I have achieved. Despite me working hard as your younger sister, Onii-chan have never once petted my head, hugged me, or even give me a kiss. We will not be punished by heavens even if our cohabitation is even more sweeter and lovey-dovey. But what's with Onii-chan? You are just like the monk that is living a life of abstinence in the temple, and is unwilling to even touch me. There is a saying, 'it is a man's humiliation not to eat the things that is served right to his mouth', and that just describes you perfectly. If Onii-chan is to prove himself to be a normal man, then you will have to

make a move on me as quickly as you can."

"..... Don't you think the conversation is going out of topic?"

"In any case!"

After a yell, Akiko iterated her point.

"The hostel which we are living in is strictly against outsiders from entering. Though it is rather apologetic towards those who have just moved in, we should be chasing them out as quickly as we can."

"No, even if you say that....."

Nikaido Arashi.

Nasuhara Anastasia.

Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi.

The three of them were practically done with their moving in. It will not be realistic for me to chase them out.

Or rather, I did not have the power to do so anyway. Due to the decision for the hostel to be destroyed, I was just barely able to protect my stand as a caretaker and resident.

"The three of them had negotiated with the school, and they have thus obtained the right to live in this hostel. I don't think there is anything that I can say. Moreover, those three people have their own reasons for moving into here. If I am to ask them to 'get out' at a time like this, don't you think it is just a little too.....?"

"Even so, I still cannot accept it."

"Still, there is no need for you to hate on it so much, without rhyme or reason, right? Those three people are the members of the students' council as well, which means to say they are our companions too. We should treasure our companions more."

"I'll treasure them in any way you wish, except this time. Just this once, no."

"Why not look at it from another point of view? The fact that the three of them have moved over means that the members of the students' council have now gathered under the same roof. If so, it will result in us being together for the whole twenty-four hours. That will naturally improve the camaraderie among us, and we can discuss about the council's stuff whenever we like. See, don't you think it is something great?"

"I do admit, these are the advantages. However, they are not worth me sacrificing my private time with Onii-chan."

"Well, don't say that-"

"Onii-chan. Doesn't it somehow feels rather suspicious?"

My sister kept staring at me.

"Somehow, there is the strange feeling that you are standing on the side of the three people."

"Is that so? No, nothing of that sort."

"No, don't even think of trying to hide it from Akiko's eyes. Onii-chan's the one who had originally made preparations in order for us siblings to live together again, and you were the one who went through great pains to do so. Compared to me, Onii-chan should be the one who is voicing his dissent against the current situation. No?"

"No no no, I am not that sort of narrow-minded guy, you know? Indeed, it is important for us to live together by ourselves. However, it is similarly as important to live with the members of the students council, right?"

"No, I can't accept that. The Onii-chan of today is indeed a little weird. There is no way the usual Onii-chan will say such things."

"Even if you say that..... What should I do to make you accept it?"

"Mmm. If it is the usual Onii-chan, he should be saying this to me. 'Don't worry, Akiko. You are the most precious darling to me in the whole world. I'll resort to any means to chase those three people out of the hostel. Just wait and see, I will definitely get back our lovey-dovey lives. I love you, Akiko. Please marry me right now.' Like that."

"The usual me will not say things like that?"

"After that, Onii-chan will gently hug me into your chest, and your lips will..... uwaa~, Onii-chan, you can't do that! I am still not mentally prepared!"

"....."

I had decided to ignore my sister, who was twisting her body about. Somehow, it feels like that girl is slowly turning like that, day by day..... Will it be better if I find a time to clearly talk to her about it?

But forget it, putting those words aside, my sister was not wrong in her accusations. Indeed, to a certain extent, I am siding towards the three people who had just moved in.

The reason is clear.

One of the reasons for the actions of those three people, is to respond against my sister's brother-complex.

Akiko does listen to me, and has grown up to be an exceptional young lady. However, due to us being separated for a long time, her brother-complex has worsened as well. Her position, reputation and etc, which she has painfully built up by being an adopted child of the Arisugawa family and a member of the students council - there is a possibility of it all being destroyed in an instant due to her brother-complex that is way off the charts.

At a time like this, those three people have moved into the hostel to act as a sort of buffer. That's how it is.

Of course, from my point of view, it is not like I am welcoming it with open arms as well.

That is because it is quite normal for me to want to continue on with my peaceful life together my younger sister, after getting it back the hard way.

Then again, those three people have a just cause, which is to cure my sister's brother-complex. As such, as her elder brother... no, as her guardian, I have the obligations to raise my sister to be an outstanding-

"Oi- both of you. Can I interrupt for a second?"

Just then, came a voice from the corridors.

"We are basically done with moving our items. I wish to hold a sort of meeting in regards to our hostel lives. Can you two come here for a while?"

***

"Now now. There is no need for you to puff up your face like a balloon, do you?"

At the meeting room and canteen, located on the first floor of the hostel.

Seito-kaichou - Nikaido Arashi shrugged her shoulders, while sitting on the chair with her back hunched.

"With this, the companions living under the same roof has increased. Even if it is just for show, show a smile? Hmm?"

"Nope."

Upon being told, Akiko puffed up her face even more.

"Why should I put on a nice expression for you, when you guys are the ones who have invaded the love-nest of mine and Onii-chan's, without even giving that much of a warning?"

"That's how adults should act."

"If so, I'll rather be a child for life."

"Kakaka, it seems like I am really being hated by you. However, I still love that innocent smiling face of yours best. Come on, just once, give me a smile?"

"The only method of getting back my smile is for everyone here except me and Onii-chan to pack up and leave immediately."

"Mmm- really? That's regrettable. Sadly, we have obtained official permission from the school council to live here at this hostel. That is a fact that will never change, regardless of the amount of tantrum you throw."

"Uhhh..... guh....."

"There is only one thing you can do to make us leave this hostel: you are to become my lover, and the two of us will then enjoy our heavenly nights each and every day."

"Absolutely no!"

"If you can't be my lover, it is fine if you marry into my family?"

"Please restrict your jokes to your eye-patch and your Japanese sword!"

"Please do not be that infuriated."

Just then, Fuku-kaichou Nasuhara interrupted.

"If you don't, for someone who does not have much to your looks to begin with, it will only get worse? You should behave like a dog who is getting tempted by its owner's bait, and start to act cute. If so, that face of yours, which looks like a bulldog sneezing, will become something that is more pleasant to see."

"Bu-Bulldog!? I don't have such a weird face!"

"Ara, is that so? I am sorry, the Akiko-who-had-lost-to-me-in-the-most-recent-beauty-contest-hosted-by-St-Ririana-Academy."

"Kuuu..... you are looking down on me again! There was actually only a one to two votes difference in the amount of votes that we get!"

"However, it's those one or two votes that had decided the match - that is the truth as well."

"Even so, there is no need for you to ridicule me with that harsh tongue of yours!"

"Ah, perhaps. I am sorry for hurting you unintentionally, Akiko. I just have a bad habit of not being able to differentiate between the existence of those that are inferior to me. Honestly speaking, I am not really sure of how different your face is when compared to a bulldog. I am really sorry. Look, since I am already lowering my head in apology, please forgive me."

"Uuuuuhhh..... You are continuing on your use of abusive words, despite putting on an apologetic attitude!"

"Alright alright. both of you, stop arguing."

This time, it was Ginbe who spoke.

"Himenokouji Akiko. Indeed, it is rather rude of us to move into the hostel without seeking your approval. I am sorry."

"That's right! To barge into the love-nest of mine and Onii-chan's by yourselves..... please reflect deeply on it! I will be really happy if you will leave this place after you are done with the reflections! Immediately! *Just now*!" [TLNote: Just now! is actually in English in the novels. It sounds weird, but just so you know.]

"I really wish to do that too. However, putting aside Kaichou or Fuku-kaichou, I have been living a penniless life. Due to the house moving this time, my wallet is literally empty right now. Honestly speaking, I don't even have any cash to move out of here."

"Uuhhh..... If so....."

"Even though there is not much people living in this hostel, the school will still fork out the money for our food and stuff. For someone who is penniless like me, this hostel is my only option left..... If I am chased out of here, I'll be relegated to wandering on the streets on the freezing

month of April. Also, I do not have much friends who I can rely on, since I had just moved from Kyoto to this place."

"..... Uuhhhhhh~"

"The only friend of mine happens to be your elder brother. To be truthful, me and Akito are close friends back when we were living at Kyoto. We would help each other in all sorts of things, and if possible, I'd like to continue that sort of relationship with him at this school. Since Akito is the caretaker of the hostel, and I am in an exhausted state - for this time round, I do wish to rely on his kindness, no matter what."

"..... Uuuuhhhhhhhhhh~"

"Akiko. I've heard from Akito that you have grown up to be a really exceptional younger sister, and I do think so as well upon seeing you. If possible, if you are to be more tolerant towards your brother's choice of friends, it will do much good for Akito's impression on you as well - that's what I think."

"..... Uuuuuuuhhhhhhhhhhh~"

"I do understand, that as his blood-related sister, you are always worried about Akito. To be honest, I am the same as well. I think you are well aware of it as well, about the fact that Himenokouji Akito is a man who has a rather secretive side, and he does occasionally stir up something big by himself. Isn't that so?"

"..... Yes, indeed."

"I'm not wrong, am I? In actual fact, Akito had faced quite a few difficulties back at Kyoto due to his personality. For me, I wish to act as a role similar to being Akito's brakes. I wish to stay in this hostel to assist Akito, yeah."

"..... You are saying that you will need my cooperation?"

"It's great that you can understand things that quickly. You, the person who knows Akito best; and me, the person who knows the Kyoto-Akito best. If we are to join forces, then I think we will be invincible. What do you think?"

"..... Uuuuuuuuhhhhhhhhhhhhhh~"

Akiko's status: no room for refutes.

Stating facts, stirring emotions, and convincing with reason - Ginbe's debating skills is flawless. Upon being persuaded with such an excellent train of thought, the only means of retaliation left for anyone will probably be to let loose their emotions and rage due to their embarrassment.

"Uhhh..... O-Oniichan.....?"

"Well, that's how it is, generally."

My sister looked towards me, as though she was seeking for the final straw that could save her. I simply went for the final blow.

"Looking at how things are now, it seems like we can only go along with the flow. It is not a totally bad thing for you or me, so let's look at it in a more positive light?"

"Hawwww....."

With a crestfallen look, Akiko slumped her shoulders,

"Ahhh..... I am finally living alone with Onii-chan, and it is to become a dream that quickly? 娑羅双樹の花の色、祇園精舎の鐘の声— It's like the internal structure was built with collapsing wooden blocks; it's

like making a sand-castle while facing an incoming wave. Happy times like this always never lasts....." [TLNote: Oh joy. Firstly, check out Tales of the Heike from the wiki. The original is: 祇園精舎の鐘の声、諸行無常の響きあり。娑羅双樹の花の色、盛者必衰の理をあらわす。However, due to the huge emotional blow that Akiko is suffering from, she has mixed up the sequence. You can find out what they mean from the link provided.]

"That's a little too exaggerating."

"Ah. Could it be, that this is all a dream?"

"Sadly for you, this is reality. Without doubt."

"I see—. This is reality—"

Once again, Akiko slumped her shoulders.

"— However!"

She immediately straightened her back. It was as though a coin was flipped to its other side - she was revived.

"I will not be me if I am to admit defeat right here! For someone like me, who had constantly endured and endured for the past six years, such a trial is of nothing to be afraid of!"

"Oh. That sounds quite reliable."

"That's right, it is really dependable! As such, I, Himenokouji Akiko, shall once again declare! My relationship with Onii-chan will never be broken!"

"Mhmm. You are right."

"Or rather, I feel that should I successfully complete this trial, we as a married couple will then be really able to declare ourselves to be as one body and soul for the very first time! If we are to welcome our very first night together with an unwavering stance, the bonds between siblings that we are to form will be stronger than ever. Isn't that right, Onii-chan!?"

"No. I can't just simply nod my head at that."

As usual, it seemed like there is not just a small difference between mine and my sister's understanding. Whatever, I'll not go deep into that. It was rare for things to be settled that amicably.

"Alright. Well then, I'll start by saying: everyone, please take care of me."

Nikaido-senpai seized the opportunity to end the subject.

"No matter what, it's fate for us five to gather here like this. Everyone has their own views and opinions, but since we are already here, let us work together, and strive for a more comfortable life. Don't you think so?"

She has said a lot of inappropriate stuff, but she is still the president of the students' council of St. Ririana Academy. Even though it was something that is being said all the time, it still somehow carried a lot of weight in it.

"Alright, I have something to say to caretaker Akito, in regards to the operation of this hostel in the future."

"Mmm? Something to inform me?"

"Yes. Actually, I have located some data of this hostel back when it was

still in use."

As she said that, Nikaido-senpai took out a document,

"Inside this, are all the rules that we must abide when we are living here."

"Ohho-"

"The fact is, up till yesterday, there is only you siblings that are living here. However, that will not be the case starting from today onward. Since we are living together, there will be a need for rules and regulations, agreed?"

"Well you are right. Indeed."

"There is no need to follow the old rules down to the details, but still, it is something that is made out of the essence of the intelligence of our previous seniors that have stayed in here. It should be fine for us to make references to it. Also, to be honest, the council has stated a condition for the revival of this hostel."

"Oh. Something like 'we must follow the rules written on that document', right?"

"Yes. Well, that's how it is."

I guess that is more appropriate.

And not just appropriate, I should say, that is something that I could not have wished more for. It will be really troublesome if we are to start thinking up rules for living together from scratch. Not only that, but considering the fact that all the inhabitants that have gathered here are people with a little too much personality, it will be even harder to do the rules.

"Speaking of which, we are members of the students' council anyway. It is part of the school's policy to give freedom to its students, but we shouldn't abuse it and embarrass the school board either."

"I see. There is no reason why we should not follow the rules, considering the various conditions imposed on us."

"Well, that's how it is. Anyone who is against it?"

Nikaido senpai gave a brief glance at everyone. It seemed like there was no objection.

"Good, I'll hand a copy of this to everyone after its photocopies are made, so do look through it properly. Anyone else has anything to say? .....OK, that's all for today, everyone's dismissed. We are still not done with our luggage, so we'll leave the trivial stuff for later."

***

That's how it was.

The first day of the harmonious gathering of the students' council members had ended without much of a stir.

Of course, I wasn't aware of anything back then.

About the fact that the 'rules' dug out by Nikaido-senpai, which everyone of us is to abide, will hit me painfully in the stomach, and come to affect me slowly but surely.

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 2: 13th April, AM5:00

Nasuhara's harsh tongue never fails to disappoint, though the prospect of kissing Akiko on any part of her body is really quite delicious as well.

I guess it is quite obvious what the students' council is up to at this point of time.

Also, just a reminder. I've said that this volume is rather short, and as of chapter 2, I am actually done with about a quarter of the book already (about right, since it's 2 chapters out of 10). With that, I shall resume on Hyouketsu Kyoukai. Depending on how long the chapter is, I may just slip in a third chapter somewhere in between, since a Hyouketsu Kyoukai is left with about half of the volume to go.

Enjoy.
****

"Onii-chan—. It's morning already—. Please wake up—"

The members of the Himenokouji family wake up very early in the morning.

Our day begins at five in the morning, before the sun has even risen.

"Onii-chan—? Can you hear me—?"

"Mmm~? Mmmmmmm~....."

Despite hearing my sister's voice coming from outside my room, I still remained in my room covered by my blankets, without moving an inch.

"Onii-chan—. Onii-chan Onii-chan Onii-chan. It's morning it's morning it's morning. It looks like the weather will be fine today too—?"

"Mmm..... Mmmmmm....."

"Onii-chan—? Are you still asleep—? Please answer me if you are awake—. Oi—. Yahoo—. Oi—"

"....."

It's a shame, but I, Himenokouji Akito, is someone who loves to stay in bed. Take today for example, which is a rest day. Adding on the fact that it is right after the deadline for me to submit my draft, it will be very difficult for me to get out of bed willingly.

"Are you still sleeping? Are you still sleeping?"

"....."

"If so, then please pardon me."

Kra kra kra

Pisyari [TLNote: Jap onomatopoeia for the door closing (softly). I can't come up with an equivalent.]

"Fufu. You are really sound asleep."

Her voice sounded much closer than before. However, despite me knowing that, my mind was still in a state of standby, since that is of no relation to my consciousness. I still remained in sleep.

"Fufu. Onii-chan."

"....."

"Kuku. Onii-chan ♪"

"....."

It seemed like that girl was whispering next to my ears.

Isn't she a little too close? Despite me having that question somewhere deep within my consciousness, I was still (omitted).

"Fufu. Onii-chan has always treated this cute younger sister of his with a cold attitude through and through, perhaps even to a state where it is a crime. Typically, I cannot get this close to him..... This is indeed something that is gifted by the heavens. Only I, his younger sister, have this right to admire Onii-chan's sleeping face at such a close distance. It will not do if I do not exercise this right to its full potential, right?"

"....."

"Thus, I'll be having Onii-chan's sleeping face all to myself for now. On behalf of the rest of the students' council members who are sadly missed out on this scene, I shall stare at Onii-chan with all my might, until I am satisfied."

"....."

"Ji—"

"....."

"Ji ji—"

"....."

"Ji ji ji—"

"....."

"....."

"....."

"....."

"..... Mmm—"

"Halt."

Upon sensing danger, I immediately opened my eyes, and saw my sister's lips closing in on me, with her eyes closed.

"Akiko. What are you doing here?"

"..... Ah!"

"I'll ask again. What are you trying to do?"

"Urm, this, which is that....."

"You have closed your eyes and pouted your lips, right?"

"Yes..... yes I did, probably?"

"Are you planning to assault me while I am sleeping?"

"No, you are mistaken. That..... yeah, I was just planning to whistle. Really, please believe me."

"You are lying to me, right?"

"..... Yes. I am sorry."

I propped up half of my body off the bed, and shook my head exasperatedly.

"I am wrong to be lazing in bed, but if I am to be waken up in a manner like this, then I have no choice but to consider something."

"C-Consider something, what?"

"Well, if I am to get a dozen of alarm clocks, even if it is me, I'll probably jump out of bed in an instant. Should I do that from now on - that's what I am considering."

"Please wait, Onii-chan! I violently object! Waking up Onii-chan is a right that belongs only to me!"

"Hmm-. Even if you say that."

"I am not good with waking up too, but I have tried my best to wake up for this event! That is all so that I can have a taste of the sweet moments in the early morning..... If that reward is taken away from me, I'll lose the drive to wake up early!"

Well indeed.

Originally, my sister's a match with me when it comes to lazing in bed. The reason for her to forcefully overcome that weakness to do the household chores early in the morning is probably due to her so called 'reward'.

"Or rather, Onii-chan, please change your train of thought."

"Oh. Meaning?"

"Mmm. If you cannot wake up at the designated time, then as punishment, you will have to receive a kiss from me - Onii-chan will be able to wake up more successfully if you are to think of it that way, right?"

"Why must I happily worry about my sister's assaults while welcoming a brand new day? I don't want that sort of life."

"Ultimately, it is all Onii-chan's fault, you know?"

"Why?"

"The reason for this sort of thing to happen is due to Onii-chan not loving me enough. I have been saying it for a while, right? The morning kiss when we wake up; the farewell kiss when we leave the house; the welcoming kiss upon returning home; and the goodnight kiss before going to sleep - only by doing all of these, can you consider yourself to be a man who can hold on his own. That's how it is."

"A man who fulfills those requirements by utilizing his younger sister, in order to hold on his own - I don't think there is a single one out there in this whole world."

"In any case."

My younger sister banged on the floor.

"I yearn for Onii-chan's love! We are actually living together again after we had been separated for six years, and despite that you have never once petted my head nor hugged me - it can't be helped that my desires will accumulate! I seek for Onii-chan's assistance to remove this sort of restless feeling!"

"Assistance. How should I go about doing that?"

"Firstly, please whisper gently to your cute younger sister, words that are so sweet they will cause me to be dazed upon hearing it!"

"Mmm. I love you, Akiko. More than anyone in this world - no, you are the only one whom I love in this world."

"Eek!?"

As she let out a weird cry, my sister snatched my blanket away from me and hid herself within it.

"How's that? Are you satisfied?"

"..... Awuuhh....."

"Oi-? Akiko-?"

"Why, why does Onii-chan-"

She popped her face out of the blanket. It was dyed deep red,

"Not know how to restrain himself, or show mercy!?"

"Urm, isn't this what you had requested? Whispering sweet nothings to

you."

"I have indeed requested for it, but it is a foul for you to say it with a pure smile that came from the bottom of your heart! It has exceeded what I can handle calmly!"

"You are a girl who is hard to please..... How about this, I'll just say it directly with a slightly gentle feeling. Is that okay?"

"No, that will not do either! If so, it will feel like there is not enough love injected into it!"

She is really a girl who is hard to please.

"Well, I understand. I'll try my best..... Well then? You can be satisfied with this, princess-sama?"

"..... Uh—"

My sister squirmed out of the blankets, and took about three deep breathes.

Her red face had returned back to its original state. She cleared her voice,

"Aside from the fact that the stimulation is still a little too strong, it is a result that I am rather pleased with. To be honest, my mood has turned really good."

"I see. That's great."

"Fufufu. Indeed, I am still the person whom Onii-chan treasures the most. The reason for Onii-chan to ignore my advances till now, it is probably the 'tsundere' thing that is being brought up frequently. If things are to continue developing like this, the day at which I spend a passionate night with Onii-chan will not be too far off."

"No, that day will never come within your lifetime."

"Onii-chan there you go again. You always love to joke-"

"No, I am speaking in a very serious manner."

"I had been lying down and thinking about it for the whole night."

Ignoring my feeble protest, sparkles of light were given off from deep within my sister's eyes.

"No matter how much I think, no matter how deeply I think, the bond between me and Onii-chan will always be strong, secure and deep. No one will be able squeeze into the bond between us. That's right, not even god."

"Well, is that so?"

"That's why, even if the students' council members are to move into this hostel, it will be a waste of their efforts to try to destroy our love. Since it is a wasted effort, then there will be no need for me to be concerned about this, right?"

"Mmm, that's right."

"As such, from my point of view, I have came up with the conclusion, which is to welcome the new residents of this hostel."

"Oh? Is that really so? You have changed the way you look at it huh."

"Yes. Just as Onii-chan had said, I've thought about it positively."

"Mhmm. You are a really good girl, Akiko."

"Ehehe. Please praise me more."

"Mhmm. I think Akiko is really great."

"Fufufu. Can you praise me even more?"

"Ahh- I am shocked that Akiko is such a great younger sister. I am really proud of you."

"Nyuhu. If you can just praise me more, I will be really happy."

"Akiko is indeed the number one younger sister in the world. If there are events like 'Miss Imouto' or something, you will definitely become the champion of it. That's how impressive you are as a younger sister."

"More, more. Please praise me more."

"..... Urm, I am running of ways to praise you."

"No, you still have a long way to go. Please look for more ways to praise me from the huge dictionary of words available. The possibilities of Japan language is endless. As long as you are willing, there will be an unlimited amount of praises."

Well, theoretically, she may be not wrong, but my brain was at its limits, for it being in a state of just waking up. Then again, I did not think my sister has done anything that deserves my endless praise.

"Alright. Let us stop wasting time, and start to make preparations for the morning."

"Geez. It seemed like Onii-chan is taking the important job of praising his cute younger sister much too lightly. I am a girl that thrives on praises, you know."

"No no no, there needs to be a limit to everything. You see, even the vegetables will die if they are given too much fertilizers, right? The same thing applies to praising as well."

"Well, that makes sense too, but....."

"Let us stop talking about that. I am hungry already. It is about time for us to have our breakfast."

"I see..... I do really wish to start preparing breakfast, but due to the rare welfare-time ending so soon, Akiko can't deny that her mood has dropped quite a bit. If so, there is a possibility that the standards of food will drop as well..... from the looks of it, we may have to settle with some hastily cooked instant food....."

"Is that so. What a pity. As Akiko's dishes are delicious no matter when and where I eat it, I have always enjoyed them a lot."

"Understood! It will be done in thirty minutes, so please wait for a moment!"

Akiko gave a bright smile, and dashed towards the kitchen.

Well, I do think she is a little too innocent. However, if that can allow her to work happily, then I guess it does not matter if I go just slightly overboard with things.

To see my sister's pure and innocent smile at the closest distance every single day - for that, I had gave my all.

"Alright, I'll be doing my best to come up with great dishes. Onii-chan, what do you want to eat today?"

"Hmm- Let's see....."

Yesterday's was a combination of unfermented bread with buttered egg-rolls, plus homemade yogurt. Everything was delicious, but it should be Japanese for today, if we are to follow the schedule-

"Oi—. Are you awake?"

Just then.

Along with the knocks of the door, came a familiar voice.

"Ginbe huh? What's up?"

"Yo, morning Akito. You are early, as usual."

Opening the door, I saw my good friend waiting there with a smile on her face.

"..... Isn't that the cooking attire?"

I was slightly shocked when I see the clothes that Ginbe was wearing.

"This is the first time I have seen you wear that."

"Yeah, I think this is the first time I have shown myself to you in such a manner. How's it, Akito? Does it suit me?"

"Yeah, it does."

Ginbe is a European with silver hair and emerald eyes, but at the same time, she is a true Japanese inside. For someone like her to be wearing the traditional cooking attire of this country, it is something that is totally acceptable.

"Urm, then? What are you planning to do in that attire, this early in the morning?"

"Since ancient times, for the women of this country, this attire has always been worn while cooking. Not to mention, I have no interest in cosplay."

"Haa. I guess you are not wrong."

"I've made breakfast, and is planning to share it with you siblings. You have not eaten anything right? Or are you busy with preparing breakfast?"

"Ah no, my stomach's still empty, and Akiko has not done anything either."

"That's great. I've made your portions as well, without asking. Even if it is just so that the food will not be wasted, it will be great if you are to just entertain me for a while. Incidentally, Kaichou and Fuku-kaichou are already there waiting at the canteen as well."

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Since she had already put it like that, there was no reason not to go.

While consoling my sister, who was putting on a face of discontent and muttering dissents like 'I actually want to have breakfast with Onii-chan by myself", I walked into the canteen. It seemed like the preparations for breakfast was nearly done.

Nikaido Arashi and Nasuhara Anastasia were indeed sitting at their respective seats, waiting.

"Good morning. The two of you are really early."

"I have to practice every morning."

As she placed her trusty blade next to her side, Kaichou laughed.

"My skills will deteriorate quickly if I won't swing it for at least an hour or two daily. As someone bearing the name of the Nikaido family, that is something which I have to avoid at all cost."

"Indeed. Then does Nasuhara has some sort of practice as well?"

"I do not really have that sort of thing."

The gold-haired Fuku-kaichou continued on with her wooden-like expression,

"Learning and reading, together with the work of the students' council. There are many things which I need to do, and no amount of time is enough. It is no longer a matter of 'the early bird gets the worm', but rather, the fact that I will not be able to survive if I do not wake up this early."

Well- yeah.

I don't really know if it is to be expected of us, but it seemed like the bad habit of sleeping late is mutually exclusive with these capable people. The Ginbe whom I knew long ago is the same as well, and Akiko does wake up early too. Though I am slightly away from their level, but what I am about to say is not a lie either - I am a student who is holding a part-time job, and if possible, I will have to limit my sleeping hours in order to complete my drafts.

Is that so, is that how it is?

There is no need for us to accommodate to anyone - the living hours of all the inhabitants here are the same. Since we are to live together, that is something really important. If a person active in the day is to stay with someone active only at night, I cannot think of a single good thing that

will come out of that.

"Everyone, is there any special preferences or dislikes that you may have?"

Ginbe asked as she peeked out from the kitchen.

"Generally, I've made these according to my preferences, so if there is anything dishes that you may dislike, you can just inform me without hesitation. I will try my best to solve it within my means."

With that said, my good friend was already done placing the dishes onto the table.

Rice with miso-soup, cold tofu and grilled seaweed.

Cooked fish with egg, with a little pickled vegetables.

It was a very traditional and colorful menu.

"Here. Please enjoy it while it is hot."

"Then I will not hold back. Itadakimasu."

Let's start from the pickled vegetables. It is rolled cabbage pickled with the chaff of ginseng. From its colors, it seemed to be perfectly made.

Using my chopsticks, I put a small piece into my mouth.

..... Delicious.

The saltiness and the amount of fermentation is just to my liking. The condensed taste had a hint of sourness in them, which totally brings out the taste of the ingredient. It's of a totally different style as compared to Akiko's pickles..... that was probably the so called Kyoto's style. Due to

me living in Kyoto up until recently, there was a rather nostalgic taste to it.

Next, I lifted up the bowl of miso-soup.

I gave a whiff at the light fragrance, and took a sip.

..... That's delicious too.

The tofu in the white miso had been diced into fine cubes, resulting in them sliding down my throat without any resistance. The soup consist of mainly of seaweed, together with a little fish. The ingredients had maintained a fine balance, without coming off as overpowering. That's just like Ginbe's style.

But what's with the vegetables in the soup? From a brief look, they looked like rape blossoms and mizuna chopped finely together. However, there was an elegant taste when I put them into my mouth. It should not be your typical ingredient..... [TLNote: mizuna is Japanese for water greens... wiki it up if interested]

"It's wasabi flower."

My good friend was smiling lightly while she said that. Could it be that she had seen through my thoughts?

"Just like the name suggest, it's the flower of the wasabi plant. It's a seasonal ingredient."

"Eh..... Is there such an ingredient?"

"I got hold of it by chance, and since I have it, I'd decided to use it in the breakfast for today. Well, these vegetables used here are kinda a replacement for the soba noodles that one gives when he moves into a new place. I can't spend a lot, but I still wish to give something decent."

"Is that so. However, these things are not something that you can obtain easily in Tokyo, right? To think that you have actually managed to get hold of it."

"It will not do if you are to underestimate my contacts, you know? I had requested it from an intermediary whom I know, to source it from various shops that I frequent."

"Hoho-. So thoroughly prepared - as expected from you."

"Well, it is true that I got lucky as well. I was lucky that the shop that sells such ingredients just so happens to be located nearby. It was also an coincidence for them to be stocking these when I had contacted them early this morning. They are ingredients that can't be stored for long, and as a result, they've appeared in your dishes as I wanted to eat them immediately after purchasing them."

My friend was speaking tirelessly, with an expression that fully shows her innocence and happiness.

Nikaido-senpai exclaimed along the lines like, "Eh, that's really a treat". And while Nasuhara remained expressionless, the chopsticks in her hands had slipped slightly in response. It seemed like Ginbe had totally achieved her motive in 'replacing the soba noodles with that'.

"Ah, but I was really surprised. This dish is really delicious."

"Mmm. I am really glad that you like it."

"Then again, I don't know that Ginbe is that good at cooking."

"Well. I have been living alone for quite a while, and my personality is rather stubborn as well. I am quite confident in regards to cooking, you know."

"I see."

"Then again, due to you rarely coming over to my house to play, I never had many chances to show you my abilities either. If you were a loyal friend, you should have already tasted my cooking quite a while back, you know?"

"Well, stop trying to ridicule me. You aside, it seemed like your family does not really welcome me. Honestly speaking, it's hard enough for me to maintain this friendship with you."

"Fufu, oh well. From today onward, we are companions who are living under the same roof. There are plenty of chances for you to taste my cooking."

"Yeah, please take care of me..... I say, Akiko."

I spoke to my sister, who seemed like she had not touched her meal much.

"How's Ginbe's cooking? You are good at cooking as well, so I wish to hear your opinions."

"Uhhhhh....."

As she gripped onto her chopsticks, Akiko stared at the dishes,

"They are very delicious. Simple and heartwarming, with no flashy things - it's just pure and unpretentious..... and it is also rather similar to my cooking style, regarding the fact that the ingredients are cheap."

"Indeed. It is something that is quite similar to Akiko's cooking."

"I have a question, Ginbe."

"Mmm? Yes?"

"The rice is Ginbe's personal mix, right?"

"Correct. Do you know what they consist of?"

"Just a little. Probably consist of hatsushimo and hitomebore, but I don't really know the rest..... How much does the rice cost roughly?"
[TLNote: ハツシモ and ひとめぼれ, two different rice breeds of Japan]

"Let's see..... around five hundred yen per kilogram?"

"Ugh. To achieve such a taste with that cost..... truthfully speaking, that's way better than me..... No, in fact, she's even better than the shopkeeper of rice store that I frequent?"

"Well, I've been living a poor life for quite a while, yeah? I am very adept at obtaining high outputs with low cost."

"Uhhhhh....."

After which, my sister asked a lot more questions about Ginbe's cooking. However, she would give a moan each time she hears the answer from Ginbe. It seemed like Ginbe is a step ahead or two in regards to the path

of cooking that they are both walking on.

"Fuu-. Thanks for your hospitality."

Nikaido-senpai had already cleared her breakfast in a flash, and was eyeing sideways at the depressed Akiko.

"Wow, that's really delicious, Ginbe. How should I put it? You can just make a living with those skills of yours."

"It's really embarrassing for me to have served you with such plain dishes. It's my honor to receive your praise."

"Speaking of which, I've just thought of a good idea. How about we leave the meals of this hostel to you? From today onward, you shall cook for everyone here."

"Eh!?"

The person who made such a reaction was Akiko.

"What do you mean!?"

"What's with 'what do you mean', it's exactly as you heard, Akiko. Sawatari Ginbe Haruomi shall be in charge of the meals of this hostel, and everyone is to eat the dishes that she makes. Of course, that includes you and your brother as well."

"That- I object!"

"Why?"

"Because, if so, I will not be able to cook for Onii-chan anymore - not just that, my personal time with Onii-chan during meals will be-"

"That's what living together in a hostel is all about. Even if you're not accustomed to it, since we are living under the same roof, we have to eat the same dishes as well. Normally, doing that will allow one to understand the difference in the values that others hold, and they can then gradually overcome such differences. Right?"

"I-It is indeed like that."

"Incidentally, there's only two kitchens in this hostel. One is at the caretaker's room that you siblings are living in, and the other is at this canteen. Do you know what that means?"

"Uhh."

Well, upon thinking deeper, she was right.

Akiko and I can cook whatever and whenever we wish, but that does not apply to the rest of the people. As such, instead of having everyone to manage their own meals with the limited kitchens that we have, it will be much more efficient if someone is to be in charge of the meals for everyone.

However, my sister had no intention of giving up just yet.

"Of course, I do understand that there are a lot of advantages in doing so. B-but, Onii-chan eating the food that I make is something that is very important for us both! I cannot simply let it go! I violently object!"

"No no no, it's not like we are going to do this for all the three meals of the day. It can just be for breakfast, or something that happens occasionally."

"But, even so, it is the truth that my precious time with Onii-chan will be reduced! The intimate time between siblings that we have worked so hard to obtain after being separated for six years! Isn't it overboard for

you to be doing that!?"

"Well, it's not like I don't understand what you are trying to say....."

"Regardless of what you say to this person, it will be useless, Kaichou."

Despite her just moving her chopsticks silently up until then, Nasuhara spoke.

"Because she is an uncooperative person who does not care if she is causing troubles for others. Or rather, she is someone who will laugh behind our backs and despise us in secret for not having our own kitchens in our rooms."

"Wha- nothing of that sort! Please do not slander me without proof!"

"It is true that you never have the intention to let go of your own stand. You will never offer your helping hand, no matter how we plead, and regardless of how we are struggling in pain and hardship - am I right? For a cold-hearted someone who models herself after the tyrant Nero, you must have viewed this as a good chance to banish us all to the deepest levels of hell. I really cannot foresee what sort of cruel and inhumane plans that you have in stored for us."

"Hold on! Aren't you exaggerating a bit with that!? I don't think I have done anything that deserves to be spoken that horribly by you!"

"Then please prove it with action. That you are someone who is cooperative, and different from those who acts alone and think only for themselves - prove it with your actions. Out of everyone here, you are the most supportive of us living together and cooperating with each other - can you prove it right now, for all of us to see?"

"Uuhhhhhhhh.....!"

"Akiko, can you please coordinate with us?"

This time, it was Ginbe who interrupted,

"From the looks of things, there is only you who is on par with my cooking abilities. It will be tough for me to handle the meals of five people by myself, so if possible I wish you can offer me your help. It will be a great help if you can take over half of the burden."

"..... Unyuu....."

"Also, I think this will be very beneficial for you as well."

"Huh? Beneficial?"

"Just as you had admitted, I am quite confident of my cooking abilities as well. Especially techniques on how to make the most out of a very limited budget, to cook dishes that are really delicious. I have reached a state where it will not be strange if I am to write a book about it. If you are to cook with me, it will mean that you can learn some of my techniques as well, yeah?"

"Uhh....."

"Of course, I stand to gain from this too. I have always heard about your cooking skills from Akito, and I can learn something from you as well. In order words, if we can compete and learn from each other, our skills will improve, and the dishes will become more delicious with each passing day. From your brother's point of view, I doubt it is something bad."

"Uh..... Uuuhhhhhhhh....."

Akiko bit on her lips and let out a moan. Her expression was saying that she agrees with Ginbe, but it will be maddening for her if she is to

simply accept it.

Speaking of which, it seemed like my sister is always on the losing end whenever she is up against Ginbe. That is because Ginbe is someone who can say things that are hard to refute, and she does so by tossing it out gradually with a clear train of thought. Even I had been rendered speechless by her for quite a few occasions as well.

"Uuhhh..... O-Onii-chan?"

Even though my sister was looking at me with the expression of her trying to claw at the last straw that could save her.

"Well, why not? I say, looking at the current situation, I don't think you can find a strong reason to oppose."

"Ugh. Even so..... But my personal time with Onii-chan....."

"The time which we are spending together has not decreased, right? We are just eating with the rest of the people, so it is still me and you together. Or rather, our meals have became more lively. Isn't that a good thing?"

"Uuuuuuhhhhhhh....."

"There is also a rule that says, 'All residents are to work together, and respect each other'. That is written on the very first page of the document given by Kaichou."

"Guh."

"You have decided to abide to it yesterday, and for you to be regretting it after a single night. That's not too good."

"Hauu....."

My crestfallen sister slumped her shoulders.

"Not only was my lovey-dovey world with Onii-chan taken away from me, but even my right of having my meals with Onii-chan alone..... Ahhhhh, it's so saddening, it's like I am having a nightmare about the world coming to an end. In a world of despair where I am left with nowhere to go, when will my savior descend from heavens and offer me his helping hand?"

"You are still as exaggerating as ever, Akiko."

"That's right. For me, the savior of mine is no one else but the Onii-chan who loves me deeply. If Onii-chan will have a passionate night with me, then it will be possible for me endure through this painful adversity-"

"I think you know it as well. I won't do that, you know?"

"At the very least, give me a passionate kiss."

"Nope."

"I am sorry, I am wrong for asking for a deep kiss. A normal kiss will be just fine. The heartwarming type that is most commonly seen, where the lips touch each other gently."

"I will not do it, no matter what sort of kiss it is."

"Then the cheeks! Just the cheeks will do?"

"Not at all."

"I understand. I'll take a hundred steps back, and beg Onii-chan."

"Don't beg me."

"Forget it. At a time like this, it does not matter which body part of mine you kiss!"

"To me, it does not matter which body part it is, they are all out."

"Disappoint....."

Amid the dumbfounded looks from the students' council members, my sister yet again slumped her shoulders in dejection.

"..... But how—ever!"

Just as I was thinking of that, my sister raised her head in a sudden.

"I will not be me if I am to be depressed by such things! That's because up till now, since I have been living with Onii-chan again, Onii-chan has dodged all of my fierce attacks, and I have always held back my sadness till now! It's just a small setback. I'll conquer it for all of you to see!"

"Well, I do wish to commend on your perseverance - if only the subject in question is not me."

"Even if I am to obtain Onii-chan's kiss right now, it is just ultimately the first step towards our final destination! Until my dream of becoming Onii-chan's bride becomes a reality, my battle will never end - once again, I shall declare this right here, right now!"

"..... If possible, I will be much happier if you are to have a more realistic dream that conforms to common sense."

"Let's go, Ginbe!"

My sister ignored my complain,

"Hurry up and teach me your cooking techniques! I want to steal as much techniques from Ginbe as possible, in order to win over the heart of Onii-chan!"

"..... I do wish to learn a thing or two about your optimism as well. Let's work on lunch together later. The two of us."

"Right! Please take care of me!"

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That's the sort of things that had happened.

It was decided that Ginbe and Akiko will be in charge of our meals.

We will save more if we are to pool our expenses together, so it is definitely not a bad thing, in regards to the living expenses of the Himenokouji family. Since this will improve Akiko's cooking skills as well, there is really nothing much for me to oppose.

Though my one-to-one time with Akiko will probably decrease..... but since the advantages of the student's council members moving in has surfaced in such a short time, I'll just let it be.

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 3: 13th April, AM6:15

Akiko's speech is glorious as usual.

Enjoy.
****

After the breakfast, Kaichou came up with a suggestion.

"The people in charge of our meals has been decided. It is about time for us to think about the allocation of the other jobs - isn't that right, Himenokouji Akito?"

"Ha?"

"You are the head of the hostel. You shall be in charge of coming up with the list of chores that will be shared among us all. Even if we should work together in all sorts of things, it will still be better to assign someone to be in charge of each individual jobs."

"Indeed. We should decide as quickly as possible, especially on things like the roster for cleaning duty."

As there used to be only my sister and me living in the hostel, we only needed to clean the places that we had used. However, that will not work from now on.

Things like the bathroom and the washing machine will basically be shared by everyone from now on, and it does not make sense to restrain the usage such that there is a specific period for each individual use. Stuff like the second floor, and the weed-inhibited garden and etc that we had ignored will have to be cleared up gradually as well.

"Everyone here is not used to living together with others, and there are no seniors here who is familiar with things like these. There are limitations to what is written on the data which I have brought here. In any case, we will have to feel our way through blindly - however, it still makes the most sense for you to be making the final decisions. Make sure you do it properly, Himenokouji Akito."

"Ah, haha."

If we are to talk, it just feels like Kaichou should have greater experience in terms of organization techniques, operations and etc. Did she hand over the task to me in respect of our current stand? Compared to her as the Seito-Kaichou, my position in the students' council is really nothing to brag about.

"If you can't come up with anything within such a short time, how about trying to organize a spring-cleaning first?

"Haa. Spring cleaning huh."

"Yeah."

Kaichou shot me a look while pursing her lips into a smile.

On a side note, that person's typical attire is your so called kinagashi. Her chest was revealed in a rather daring manner, and the way she stuffs her two hands into her clothes, she sort of resembles a handsome vagabond who frequents Yoshiwara. [TLNote: kinagashi (着流し), casual cloths typically worn by guys. Yoshiwara (吉原), red-light district in olden Tokyo. Wiki/google if interested]

"Ignoring how things used to be back when you siblings are living together by yourselves, we are to be officially living together in this

hostel from today onward. Meaning to say, this place will become a recognized facility of St. Ririana Academy, so it will not do if we do not make it more presentable. At the current state, with things like the garden full of weeds and many others, we will not leave a good impression on our neighbors, and we can't exactly lift our heads up high in front of the school council as well."

"Haa, well, you are right."

"It is written on the rules as well. 'All residents are to put in effort in daily cleaning, to ensure the cleanliness of the hostel', as well as 'All residents are to do their best to establish friendly relationships with their neighbors'. Like that."

Just like she had said.

In actual fact, this place was previously like a rented apartment for both Akiko and me, and we had neglected a lot of areas which we were supposed to put attention to, due to us busy with stuff like house moving and work. However, we can't continue like that from now on.

"Also, from a brief look around yesterday and today, I've realized that there's quite a few faults with this hostel. There's lots of places that leaks, and rusty doors that can't be opened, and things like that."

"Ah- that's because this place is old. We did want to repair the broken places, but we lack the financial resources to do so."

"No worries, I had talked to the council about it. The school will be forking out some cash for the maintenance of this hostel."

"Ohhh? Really?"

"Yeah. They have already set aside some funds for hiring a repairman, but it will be better for us if we can list all the faulty areas, right? We do

have a budget, but it is not limitless as well. It will not do if we do not prioritize what areas to repair first."

"Mhmm."

"Thus, we can get the list done while we are cleaning each and every corner of this building - that's my plan. To add on, we can also know which part of the building requires our attention in cleaning, as well as how long it takes to clean each area. They will be useful in coming up with the roster later on."

"Indeed."

As expected from the Seito-Kaichou, her plan to that was indeed flawless. However, it will still be much better if she is without her unnecessary strong sexual drive and her crazy sense of fashion.

***

And so.

The whole of today will be spent on spring cleaning the hostel.

Also, as it is very inefficient for everyone to be cleaning the same area together, the situation had thus became such that the five members of the students' council will each have their own area to handle.

The task of cleaning the bathroom and the changing room is assigned to Akiko.

Kaichou will be in charge of the area from the entrance to the corridors.

Ginbe is in charge of the empty rooms that are not in used.

The job of clearing the weeds in the garden is left to Nasuhara.

Ignoring the second floor, which can be postponed for later, the areas to be cleaned have generally been assigned to everyone already.

Incidentally, while monitoring the overall progress of the spring cleaning, I will have to help out in areas that are falling behind schedule, or places that are difficult to clean.

The word 'supervise' does sounds rather nice to the ears, but to put it bluntly, I am the all-purpose errand-boy, which is the most troublesome job. Since I am the head of the hostel, as well as the Deputy Assistant of Secretary of the students' council, it seemed like this job is fated to be mine.

To add on, Akiko was throwing a huge tantrum about the job assignment.

"I want to be together with Onii-chan!" - like that. Well, that was her normal stance as usual, but Kaichou and Nasuhara and Ginbe had all disagreed. They said something like 'we don't compromise just because you two are siblings'.

"It felt like our blood-thicker-than-water relationship has been looked down on."

Akiko was pouting while scrubbing the tiles of the public bathroom in a *goshigoshi* sound.

"We are siblings who are left by ourselves, and we know each other better than anyone else. It is natural for us to be together. We are as difficult to separate as the two faces of a coin. You can say that our existence is unique, since we are like two souls sharing a single body."

"Mhmm. Yeah."

"But what's with that? Nikaido-senpai, Nasuhara, and Ginbe. They had made it sound as if it is a crime for me to be with Onii-chan. It's just spring cleaning, so what's wrong with the two of us doing it together?"

"Forget it, what's wrong with this? Despite all that, I am still here helping Akiko. Helping you before anyone else."

"That is not wrong, but....."

While putting on an expression that showed her unwillingness in accepting the situation, my sister continued scrubbing the tiled walls of the bathroom with all her strength. It was as if she wants to vent her burning anger onto the tiles.

Well, it's not like I couldn't understand her feelings.

It is a fact that the three new residents of the hostel have formed an anti-sister alliance to pick on her brother-complex. I did not say it explicitly to Akiko, but I guess she had more or less figured it out already.

"I can't accept it. I really can't accept it."

"..... Compared to the usual times, you are more unwilling to give up today."

"Because, today should have undoubtedly been a happy day, isn't that so? Shopping with Onii-chan, buying things, eating together, then taking a stroll at a park or somewhere. Our hands will finally entwine together naturally, our body will get closer and closer, and we will succumb to the mood and enjoy a sweet night - if those people did not move in, that would have been what is to come."

"Nope. I do not have those sort of plans?"

There has to be a limit to your wishful thinking.

"Well, in any case, we will have to do spring cleaning sooner or later. This bathroom is barely passable for use, so you can't exactly say that it is in a good condition."

"It is as you have said."

My sister gave a pout. It still seemed like she could not accept it.

"Alright. It seems like we have cleared quite a bit of the cleaning here. Since Akiko looks fine by yourself, I will be heading off to look at the situation of others."

"Huuh? Onii-chan is saying that he wants to leave me, to be with some other women?"

"Despite that being right, it sounds wrong somehow."

"You said you love me - is it just a lie?"

"Of course not. But under the premise of loving you as a sister."

"Boo."

My sister gave out a really easy to understand onomatopoeia, and turned her head away.

"Onii-chan is always like that. Even though in the eyes of the almighty love, blood-related relatives and stuff like that are all insignificant matters..... Me, the cute little sister of yours, has suffered tragic experiences due to Onii-chan being bound by some silly outdated rules. A man should never make a girl cry. I request that you do some serious soul-searching, and at the same time, improve your treatment towards your cute little sister."

"Fine fine fine. You are really right."

"Uuuuh? That sounds like a perfunctory speech from you..... Akiko has suffered from a huge blow."

"In actual fact, it feels like you are still sticking way too close to me, even as of now."

The *goshigoshi* sounds of her scrubbing the bathroom rang on as I continued.

"Ever since I have lived together with you again, how much time do you think is spent on us not being together? Almost none, right? We are in different class in school, but you will come to me during breaks. We will meet each other again after school due to the students' council. Even after returning back to the hostel, we will be together naturally until the morning comes. I think, our time spent together has way exceeded that of any other siblings in the world."

As for this seventy-years-old hostel, even though it has been decided that it will be demolished, its cultural values is definitely not low. It is constructed by building a frame of metal and clay, then finishing off with huge amount of oak - something rarely seen in the current days. It has a sense of sturdiness that it can pride itself on, way more so than any of those historical relics that one can see just about everywhere. The decision to destroy it came after various fights and squabbles, but despite all that, it is still a perfectly fine hostel that can be put to good use.

This huge bathroom is the product of the constructing techniques popular back in the olden days, condensed into a single place.

The taps and water pipes are all made of brass.

The tiles that covered the floors and walls, have an elegant design consisting of blue background and pictures of flowers.

Everything is quite old, but they are all articles of beauty, and the fact that they are still in good condition makes one feel deeply relieved. Regardless of the past or the present, one can easily see the depths of the funds of St. Ririana Academy, which it prides itself on.

"I feel really blessed, and I am very satisfied already."

I said that, while carefully cleaning away the molds that were in between the joints of the bathtub.

"Despite having a troublesome side to this, ultimately, I am still living together with you. For me, that is something that is more important than anything else. Whenever I am facing something that does not go my way, they will all be nothing once I recall the sort of happiness I am living in. Akiko, don't you feel the same?"

"..... Uuuuuuuh~~~!"

Akiko gave yet another moan of dissatisfaction. She then scrubbed the tiles at a speed higher than before.

"I understand all that! Of course, it is the most blissful to be living together with Onii-chan! Thinking back to those days, I will be punished by heavens if I am to make any sort of unreasonable requests. I think so too! But even then!"

Goshigoshigoshigoshi

The hands that were scrubbing the tiles moved at a faster and faster speed.

"But that's not it, this has nothing to do with my extravagant wishes, nor

me facing the wrath of heavens! Instead, the thing about me being together with Onii-chan whenever I can, is something that can be considered as a basic human right, a right that is bestowed to the billions of younger sisters in the world since the day they were born! Or should I say, that Onii-chan is a basic necessity for me, to the point where it is like water and sunlight to the plants..... Ugh, though I can't quite express my feelings well enough, but you can treat it like this - please marry me Onii-chan, as quickly as you can!"

"So things have still boiled down to this huh."

I am stunned, but I still managed to understand what she was trying to convey.

"I say Akiko. You have indeed followed my instructions, and have grown up to be a good girl. Entering into an elite school, getting good grades there, and being in the students' council - I am really happy about your achievements. You are really impressive. Really."

"Fufu, of course. I am a cute little sister who really listens to Onii-chan, and I will offer my body to no one else but Onii-chan as well. You can treat me as a faithful servant of Onii-chan's - no, perhaps it is more fitting to call me your slave."

"I think there are quite some problems if there is any elder brother who treats his younger sister like that."

"Rather than being a slave, you can say that I wish to become a sex-slave of Onii-chan."

"You can leave those words to Kaichou or Nasuhara..... In any case, we are lucky you have became such an excellent lady. For me, I have the duty to protect your stands with all my might. You understand that?"

"Yes, I understand."

"However, should you continue to put your brother-complex in full display, and should you continuously repeat those perverted words and action, your efforts that took you great pains to accumulate will collapse from all that. It will be very troublesome if you are to declare your love for your twin elder brother in public - you understand this too, right?"

"No. I don't."

My sister was that direct and straight-forward.

"I am faithful to Onii-chan, and my life revolves around Onii-chan. The feelings of me being deeply in love with Onii-chan is something irreplaceable, and I have always thought that loving Onii-chan is not something to be ashamed of. Therefore, no matter how I am preached by anyone, I will not stop loving Onii-chan; no matter what I will lose, I will still love Onii-chan deeply."

..... Uh— mmm.

Those were indeed her honest confessions that should stir the hearts of people - if the person in question is not me.

"That's really troublesome..... Since you have finally became such a fine lady, I am hoping to assist you to live a life that you deserve."

"A life that I deserve? Generally speaking, what sort of life is it?"

"For example. Finding a guy who is much better than me, and have you marrying him, and probably start a family with him. Something like that."

"Uuuuuuuuuuuuuuhh!?"

My sister's arched her eyebrows immediately,

"Impossible. *Unbelievable*. Onii-chan has said something incredibly violent, as of just now. Being Onii-chan's younger sister, as well as your lovely wife, I demand Onii-chan to retract what you had just said, right now."

"No no no. What do you mean by violent speech? Common sense says that it is something totally decent, no?"

"Common sense or whatsoever has nothing to do with this. I have been saying, that the Himenokouji household have our own Laws of Himenokouji."

"And I have been saying as well, I do not remember that such a set of rules exist. Also, I was almost fooled by you, but me being your other half is something that is not true, yeah?"

"In any case!"

My sister gave a loud yell, and turned to another direction,

"My feelings right now is at pit bottom. I don't care about Onii-chan anymore."

"Even if you are feeling angry due to that..... all I did was to say something that is surprisingly normal."

"In the eyes of the almighty love, normal or not does not matter at all."

"Speaking of which, I had said it just now. I have spent too much time with you, just like how we are together now. I am thinking that you can give me more plus points due to that."

"That too. If you can increase the time of us being together, I will not be whining here. Yup."

"Uh. Is that you being sarcastic at me?"

"Yes~. Pre~cisely."

My sister was still facing away from me,

"Even though I will feel really happy just by being together, but that alone will not satisfy me. I wish to receive much more doting and love from Onii-chan."

"Am I not doting on you enough already? Like right now."

"No, that is still very very far off. I have always release my love-Onii-chan-the-most beam constantly, but Onii-chan has always been ignoring it..... If so, my desires and dissatisfaction will only become worse and worse."

"Eh- so I see~"

"Enough is enough, you have reverted back to your casual and perfunctory reply!? If you do such a thing to your cute little sister, you will be struck by lightning some day!"

"Ah- so I see~ Eh-"

"Urgh! You have time and time again ignored my warnings - I understand, I have finally understood! If so, I have my own plans as well! Up until now, I was apprehensive due to me being a respectful younger sister, but as of tonight, I will be assaulting Onii-chan's bed at night—"

Her rattling speech came to a halt. Just like a radio with its batteries removed.

The reason was nothing else, but me.

"How's this? Are you satisfied with this?"

"....."

"Hmm. So you are in a state where you can't even answer me."

I shrugged, and left my sister's back - by loosening my arms that had hugged her tightly from behind.

"Oi~. Akiko~?"

I scooted to her front to look at her expression. It seemed like time had stopped for her just when she was saying "I will be assaulting Onii-chan's bed at night—". Meaning, she was petrified.

See — I shrugged just like that. I do know everyone here will understand, without the need of me saying anything, but I do have my

own concerns as well. Do you think my love will lose to that of yours? Pfft.

***

Well then.

It seemed like my petrified sister will not be released from that state any time soon, so I shall leave the bathroom for now, and look at how things are going elsewhere.

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 4: 13th April, AM8:30

Well, for those who don't already know, Onii-ai's getting a manga port. Angry Fox Scans are doing the scanlation for that, and they are way better than me in terms of the translations. Be sure to check it out at here. Quite interested to see how the manga will go about doing a rather conversation-based story.

Oh well. Here's the 4th chapter of Onii-ai. Enjoy.
****

I'll give a rough introduction to the hostel, which will become the stage of our daily lives.

It is a wooden two story seventy years-old building. It is said that it was designed by an architect who is affiliated to St. Ririana Academy.

It doesn't seem like the architect is someone famous, but his impressive skills is nothing but the truth. Despite being used for many years, the building is still in a very durable state even though it had been decided that the hostel would be demolished.

There are twenty one rooms.

One of the rooms is allocated for the caretaker's use, which is currently occupied by Akiko and me. The other rooms are for the residents' use. Eight tatami-sized large, and has no toilet, bathroom or kitchen.

There's a toilet on both first and second floor, but only one bathroom on

the first floor. The kitchen and canteen, which can house over ten people eating together, is located on the first floor as well.

And then.

I quite like this hostel in general, but there are a few things that I am particularly fond of. One of them is the floors of the corridor.

The floor which I think is made of oak, gives off a beautiful luster after being walked on by its residents over the course of so many years. The lined up oak floor boards have a smoothness as if it was made of obsidian. The sight of the floor reflecting the sunlight that came through the window somehow makes one feel calm and at ease.

And today, the floors that I like was giving off a much more splendid luster than usual.

"Yo, Himenokouji Akito. You came at just the right time."

If you want to know the reason why, it is because Seito-Kaichou - Nikaido Arashi was already done with polishing the floors.

"How's this? I am just done with it."

"..... Wow, incredible. It's much more shinier than before."

The two meters wide and thirty meters long corridor don't just look like obsidian. It is giving off a shine comparable to precious stones.

"Impressive work..... Could it be, that Kaichou's family are experts on polishing floors for generations?"

"Being an expert on that is so damn awkward. My clan lives off swordplay and martial arts. Didn't I tell you that already?"

"So you did. But this just feels like a really impressive job."

"Well, it is indeed true that I am used to doing this, you know?"

While smiling, Kaichou wiped away the faint traces of sweat.

"As you know, my family is a samurai family with a deep history, so we do have a dojo in our house. Cleaning up those places is part of our training. That's why, I am still quite adept at polishing the floors and stuff."

That is an acceptable reason.

Even then, it was still a shocking result, considering that she had completed it by herself within a short time.

"Ah, how about the cleaning near the main door?"

"Cleared it way early."

I took a look there, and indeed, the originally dusty area near the door, which gave an impression of being blackened by smoke, is now giving off a splendid luster as well.

"That's a job well done..... I wasn't expecting Kaichou to have these special techniques."

"Well, my skills are still far off from being special techniques."

"Could it be, that Kaichou is not just good at cleaning, but at all sorts of housework as well?"

"I won't say I am great at them, but basically, I do know the whole variety of skills, like cooking, washing and sewing. If I want to, I can

become Yamato Nadeshiko in a snap of my fingers." [TLNote: Yamato Nadeshiko (大和撫子) is a Japanese term meaning "personification of an idealized Japanese woman". Wiki if interested.]

Uh- mmm.

Indeed, it was shocking when she first showed me her 'ladylike-version'. So it is not just the looks; she did not neglect what is inside as well? Nikaido Arashi is really not someone to be underestimated.

"My my, but it just feels a little wasted."

"What's wasted?"

"Because if Kaichou is to be more decent and serious, you will be a typical good woman, no?"

"Oh? Can it be you are trying to hook up with me?"

"Nah."

"The door to my room is always open. It is fine even if you want to assault me at night, you know?"

"That's why I say, you are wrong..... Urm, in any case, Kaichou is pretty, smart, and knows how to do housework well. You can be considered as a perfect beauty, yeah? Despite that, why do you have to dress up like that, and say those things you always do?"

"Didn't I say so earlier as well? That is to create a gap-moe, so that I can conquer my love interests. In actual fact, you had fallen for that just a few days back, didn't you?"

"Yeah, I was indeed fooled by you."

"Thus, due to you being smitten by the contrast in me, we had spent a passionate night in my room. Boy, the you back then was really intense. I was careless, but you actually were in control instead of me."

"Please do not come up with a history that has never happened. Me and Kaichou did not touch each other even once on that day, alright?"

"Oh, is that so? Ahhhh, must be due to me getting old. My memories are worsening."

Kaichou laughed loudly with a *ka ka ka*

"Oh right, I remembered. Due to you being smitten by the contrast in me, you had forcefully pushed me down. Despite me screaming my lungs off, you still had no intention of going easy on me-"

"Please do not add on things to that fake history. Didn't I say it already, that I had not even touched you once?"

"Alright alright, stop being that agitated. The only thing that should be agitated is the thing in between your legs. Gyahahaha!"

"....."

The scene of Kaichou laughing loudly had made me deeply regret my decision to praise her.

Speaking of which, who were the bastards that had voted for this group of people? The students' council of St. Ririana Academy is not helm by an elite group of students, but rather, a bunch of mentally ill patients? That incompetent sister of mine, as well as Nasuhara - they are all hopeless.

.....

No.

That can't be right.

I had almost forgotten, but St. Ririana Academy is a famous school, and it is a fact that the students' council wields a powerful influence. It is due to Nikaido Arashi's mediation, that this hostel is gradually changing for the better.

Kaichou's looks is probably a cover to hide her true form. I will be in for some trouble, should I be confused by her exterior, and not be able to see through her real self.

"Don't be so stiff."

Kaichou shrugged whimsically - had she seen through my thoughts?

"It's not like I'll eat you or anything. You are my cute underling in the students' council, as well as my cute housemate in this hostel. I do wish to have a good relationship with you as much as possible. That is my true feelings, yeah?"

"That's exactly what I wish for as well."

"Well, I do want to eat you up, in terms of sex."

"That line is unnecessary."

"Ah, I did tell you not to be that stiff, but it will be a headache for me if you can't stiffen the thing between your legs, yeah? Ka ka ka."

"....."

None of my complains had entered into Kaichou's head.

Well, putting her popularity and capabilities aside, Nikaido Arashi is famous for being self-centered as well. That sort of '*going my way*' attitude is to be expected.

"Really, if only you can improve on that area as well, you will be a really dependable person....."

"Oh, really? I'll get embarrassed as well, if you are to praise me like that."

"That's not praising you, that's me feeling a sense of pity."

"Forget it, what's wrong with that? Didn't you say so yourself before? Compared to my prim and proper self, you prefer the current me."

"Yeah. I did indeed say it before."

"My reason for moving into this hostel is not just because I am targeting at your sister's brother-complex. I had thought about moving out of that solemn samurai family time and time again. I do have my own stands as well, but I have to act like a fine woman at there."

"Oh. Is that so."

"Yeah. Thus, I am finally able to relax myself after moving in here. Don't you think it defeats the purpose, if I am required to act prim and proper here?"

"Well, I can understand that."

I understood.

But still, it felt like the topic had went on to a different direction.

Recently, it has been a case of,

'Nikaido Arashi - she probably is on our side, but I must still be careful of her.'

My initial impression of her has become stronger and stronger.

She is as difficult to read as Nasuhara. Her carefree attitude and her ability to not show her cards, makes her harder to deal with than anyone else.

Even if she has her own difficulties, it will not do if I am to probe too deeply into it - that's what I thought.

"Ah- that's right. I have something to discuss with you."

"Hmm?"

"In regards to the cleaning of this hostel, can you let me be in charge of it?"

"Cleaning? Kaichou?"

"Yeah."

Kaichou nodded her head strongly,

"According to my research, while this hostel was still in use, the caretaker will be giving out instructions to all the various in-charges. And so, everyone will be in charge of their own tasks."

"Hoho-"

After the decision to continue operation this hostel has been approved, we had decided to take references from the past residents here. Even if we are not to take all these into account, it is natural for us to divide the

tasks equally.

The task of cooking has already been handed to Ginbe, and it will be a great deal of help if Kaichou is to take care of everything in regards to cleaning of the hostel.

"But will this be fine? You are the president of the students' council, and you have quite single-handedly managed the whole operations of the students' council, right? You should be quite busy already, will you have the time to be in charge of the cleaning?"

"Have you forgotten already? One of the reasons for me moving here, is because the two-hour trip to school is just way too long. I currently have some time to spare, so that's no problem."

"Well, perhaps it really is so."

"Most importantly, it is not like I will be doing the cleaning of the hostel by myself. Since I have requested to be the in-charge, I will be properly assigning the tasks to everyone too."

"I see. That sounds really practical."

"To add on, I stand to gain from this as well. I did mention that this can be considered to be part of the job. Things like polishing the floors and stuff, they can be a good training for me, depending on how I go about doing them. Yeah, it's killing two birds with one stone."

"Mhmm."

Since she had put it like that, I had no reason to reject her. There is a need to settle things related to cleaning, and it is for the best if Kaichou volunteers herself. Not to mention, this person is surprisingly good at cleaning.

"Understood. Sorry then, I'll leave the matters on cleaning to Kaichou."

"Alright. I shall accept it."

"Wow, that's a great help, for Kaichou to volunteer to be in charge of that. Despite what I have always said, Kaichou is still a really dependable person."

"Ka ka ka. Well, this is nothing, since it is for my cute underling."

"There you are being modest yet again. Your method on cleaning up the corridor and the main door in a flash is really something, and I am thoroughly impressed. I somehow can understand slightly, why this person named Nikaido Arashi is able to be the president of the students' council."

"You sure know how to talk. In any case, I, Nikaido Arashi, will ensure the completion of my tasks once I have accepted them. Just treat it as a safe journey on a big sturdy boat..... Alright, since I am way earlier than scheduled, do you need help anywhere? Ahh, that's right. Your sister's cleaning the bathroom, but it seems like she has still quite some distance to go?"

"You are right. Due to various circumstances."

"If so, I shall impart some secret techniques to Himenokouji Akiko."

While saying so, the happy Kaichou was planning to walk to the bathroom.

"Please wait."

"Hmm? Yessir?"

"Currently, my sister should be cleaning the bathroom by herself."

"Yeah. That should be the case."

"Meaning to say, it will be a situation where Kaichou and my sister will be in a cramped enclosed area by yourselves."

"Yeah. Well, typically, that should be the case."

"I don't think that is the case, but, could it be that you are up to something no good?"

"Ka ka ka. You worry too much."

Kaichou gave a nonchalant laugh,

"No problems. What you are thinking will not be happening."

"Is that so. That's great then."

"Yeah. Well, I'll only be using the tip, so no worries." [TLNote: the tip here refers to 先っぽ..... which can also refers to the tip of a penis.]

"Oi, hold on a second."

I regained my senses.

"It seems like you had said something that I can't just simply ignore. Can you repeat it once more?"

"Hmm? Because I am using only the tip, so you don't have to worry. That's what I had said."

"No, there's no way I can be assured by that. On the contrary, my warning sirens are ringing at their loudest."

"No no no. It is just the tip. Really."

"No no no, what's with the tip, really?"

"Nothing of importance. Just the tip means, that I will not be damaging the hymen?"

"Hymen my ass, I am talking about the things before that."

"You are a real stubborn guy. Alright, how about this. I'll not use my finger techniques this time. In replacement, I'll use my tongue-"

"Nope."

"Well, will tools be an OK?"

"How can that be okay?"

"Alright, I understand. I am an expert who have pleased many of my lovers before, so I won't be saying childish things. Even if I am unable to use my fingers, my tongue or any tools, just the mere breathes of mine should be enough to invoke sexual excitement-"

"Well, I can't help but to force you to stop breathing then."

"Oi oi, even that will not do? So that is what it means by being forced to desperation..... Whatever. There will still be a way around it."

She still has a way to go around things despite being restricted like that. Kaichou's sexual desires just seems to be bottomless.

The amount of drive she possess is something that is beyond the point of shock and admiration - but it did not matter, since there is only one thing that I should be doing. Stopping the barbarous acts of the nymphomaniac Kaichou, and to protect my sister's chastity - the best

that I could do was,

"Hold on. Don't interfere."

It seemed like Kaichou had seen through my thoughts, and was wagging her finger with a *tsk tsk tsk*,

"I am done with my job, so I have the spare time to be helping Himenokouji Akiko. However, you still have things that are not yet done, right? As the head of the hostel, it will not do if you don't take a look at the situations of the other housemates."

"Uuh."

"Also, not too long ago, I was tasked by you to be in-charge for the cleaning of this hostel. Since I am tasked with that, then I shall have the final say in anything related to cleaning. Even if you are the hostel-head, it will not be suitable for you to meddle in my affairs."

"Uuuuuuuuh."

I was gradually checkmated.

Could it be, that Kaichou had already anticipated all these since the very beginning.....?

"Alright, seems like both of us have understood my reasoning. Leave your sister to me, and focus on your work. Ka ka ka."

With that, Lady Kaichou walked leisurely towards the bathroom.

Though this is something that I came to know of later, but I shall briefly mention it here.

In the roster that Kaichou came up with later, Akiko and me has been

assigned to totally different areas for our tasks. That seemed to be yet another reason as to why Kaichou had volunteered to be the in-charge. She really is a predator who is never careless, and shows no weakness.

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 5: 13th April, AM9:00

So here's chapter 5. I will be finishing off with chapter 6. After that, I'll be clearing volume 1 of Hyouketsu Kyoukai.

Enjoy.
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In any case, there was nothing that I could do.

My sister has been with Kaichou for quite a while, and she has managed

to keep her chastity until now. She should be able to handle it, even if they are by themselves. And if the situation requires her to, she should have the courage to give Kaichou a good kick in between her legs. Despite me still feeling a tad uneasy, it will be better if I am to complete my task.

Walking past the corridor, which was still cold from the remnants of winter, I climbed up the stairs to reach the second floor.

That was the place where my good friend was carrying out her tasks of cleaning and tidying up the rooms.

"Yo Akito. You came."

Ginbe greeted me with her usual cynical smile, while still wearing her olden cooking attire and holding on to a duster in one of her hands.

"How's the situation of others?"

"Well, slightly slow. Even though Akiko had spent much more time talking rather than working, I guess she is still barely on schedule. As for Kaichou, she is already done with her job."

"Really. That's great."

"How about Ginbe?"

"Things are going smoothly over here as well. It's just that there are too many rooms; it is slightly tedious."

"Mmm- is that so. Did I not plan things out well enough when I was doing the allocations?"

"Don't worry about it. I did not bother going through the cleaning in great detail, since the rooms are not in use anyway. Even so, going at the

current pace, I will still not be able to make it in time. I do hope to finish it all before noon, so it will be great of you can help out."

"Alright, here I go."

I rolled up my sleeves,

"How should I help?"

"Let's see- there are still lots of broken junk left in the empty rooms, so please help by clearing those out. After that, throw away all the things that you, the caretaker of our hostel, think is not needed here. If there are things that can be of use, just leave it for the future."

"Okay."

With that, I started on the chores.

A war that tests my physical strength in carrying all the junk out, and Ginbe's wisdom in cleaning due to her having lived alone for so long, to their maximum.

We've been friends for over six years already, so we do share mutual understanding in everything we do. Adding to the fact that I have been in the same class as her in elementary and middle schools, we had cleaned the classroom together countless times already. The moment she received my help, the work efficiency was raised to a higher level.

Just like the hardworking ants, we focused on our individual tasks.

There was hardly any talking between us, and just like that, time silently ticked by.

— After a while.

"Hmm. At the very least, we are starting to see the end of the road."

We had successfully converted the empty rooms from a state of 'wreckage' to a state of 'slightly dirty rooms'.

"We have made some quick progress. All thanks to Akito."

"No no no, I did nothing much."

"From the looks of things, it seems like I can achieve my target of completing everything by noon. Please work harder then."

"Alright, watch me do just that."

What happened next was to wipe the rooms once with a piece of cloth, to end everything for the day.

This time around, it was me and Ginbe wiping the rooms together, one at a time.

"....."

"....."

Both of us didn't say a single word.

In the unique calming atmosphere of a wooden building with history, only the sounds of us wiping the floors and windows could be heard.

"— Fufu."

After some time, Ginbe suddenly laughed softly.

"Mmm? What? Something happened?"

"No, it's nothing. It's just that somehow, it suddenly feels strange for me to be doing such things with you in this place."

"Oh? Well, I don't quite get it."

"A few months ago, I could not have imagined that things will become like this. I had thought that at the very least, till before the graduation, you will be in Kyoto living out your high school life, staying by my side in that familiar place. But now, I am away from my home, cleaning an unfamiliar hostel together with you."

"Ah- mmm. Yeah."

"Originally, it would have been much better if we can spend our time at a more suitable place, such as the classrooms of the high schools in Kyoto. Well well, we really can't predict what will happen in this world."

"Mmm, that's true. Yes. Mmm."

"Oh, it's not like I am blaming you."

The slightly nervous Ginbe flashed me a wry smile,

"In regards to the things that you had done without telling me anything, they are all in the past already. I am also done with my biggest revenge, which is to move into the hostel where you and your sister are living together. All my resentments are already gone."

"Haha. Indeed, that is true."

"..... I did not cause any troubles for you, did I?"

Her eyebrows were slumping downwards from her uneasiness. Ginbe continued.

"Thinking back, I was forced to move into this hostel due to the circumstances. I need not look at your sister's responses to know that it is not something that you siblings are terribly happy with. I did give a few valid reasons, but my heart is still filled with guilt and regrets. Well, as of now, it is not like I have much of a choice as well....."

"Well, I was obviously shocked back then."

I threw the wiping cloth into the bucket to wash it clean, then said with a smile.

"I was indeed shocked - the leisure days spent with my sister, which I had missed out on for many years, has came to a halt only after a short while. However, not everything about it is bad. Like for now, living together with others can be considered to be a sort of learning experience as well. The experience of living together with a group of highly capable people, will be no doubt a valuable asset in the future."

"Really? I guess what you has just said can be considered to be good news for me."

With that, Ginbe showed a smile.

Even though she can be slightly hard to handle due to her teasing personality, she does occasionally show her honest self - that is one of the virtues of this good friend of mine.

"In actual fact, I am surprised by you coming over suddenly. However, I do feel more secure knowing that Ginbe has transferred to St. Ririana Academy."

"Eh? Really?"

"Of course."

Since we met six years ago, we has always been together in whatever things we do.

We were both in the class committee; we were in the same group for our travelling trip; we were together during the sports meet and the school's festivals; we even argued with the same group of people.

Well, it's not like there were absolutely no clashes between me and Ginbe (and in fact, we were both quite hostile at each other when we first met), but despite all that, we has still maintained a very good friendship for the past six years.

Good friends..... no, you can even call us to be the best of friends.

To be studying together in the same school again, and for both of us to enter into the students' council. There's nothing more that I can wish for. The best situation. I have no complaints.

"..... Well, I have never once thought we will be in a situation where we are living under the same roof."

"What. Doesn't this mean you are finding all these things troublesome?"

Ginbe puffed her cheeks.

"If that is the case, don't beat around the bush, and just say it straight. That it is inconvenient to live with me, and you feel unhappy that your lovey-dovey moments with your little sister are interrupted by outsiders. Just like that."

"No, I did not mean it like that, right? Also, what's with you dragging my sister in, at a juncture like this?"

"It is a fact that Akito has been holding back with me all these while.

Though you have said that we are good friends or whatever, in reality you have never once relied on me."

"Nothing of that sort. I have always been relying on you. Isn't it all because of you offering me many good advices, that I can break off from the Takanomiya family to stand on my own? Also, aren't you the one who introduced the job opportunity to me as well?"

"You had hid your plans of moving away and transferring school from me, till the very last moments."

"I had no choice, alright? Also, even if I had hid it from you, I did report to you immediately after I was done settling down, right?"

"In any case, you have always said we are good friends, but Akito is still distancing yourself away from me. Even if there are advantages to you acting secretively, it is still way too much. If you are to discuss with me in everything that you do, then things would have gone much smoother. Take for example, the case of you snatching back your sister from the Arisugawa - if I was to help, it would have been done in a much better manner."

"If I went as far as that, then wouldn't it be just purely me acting spoiled towards you? How can I get you involved when it is my own private matters?"

"That's what it means by holding back."

"Look, didn't you just say that you are no longer bearing any grudges in regards to that?"

"You are really fussy about trivial stuff like these. It is due to that personality of yours, that you had walled yourself away from your so called 'good friend'. I request you to reflect on it immediately, and improve on it as quickly as possible."

"Stop bringing in my personality into the argument."

We both stopped cleaning for an instant, to stare at each other.

However, that lasted for only a few seconds.

Because both of us went *puu* in laughter at the same time.

That's right.

That should be the 'everyday' that me and her share.

The Ginbe who gets stubborn easily and hounds on things, and the me who ignores her temperament - we may not seem very compatible, and we do argue a lot, but no matter what happens, we will always get back together like this.

How great it would be, if such a relationship can last on forever - that's how I feel.

I am not just thinking about it. I do plan to give in my all to maintain it.

"Well, to be honest, please continue to be my good friend, Gin. Due to me being reliant on you, I wish we can maintain our friendship forever."

"..... So as per usual, things have developed into this."

Despite me offering her my heartfelt thanks, Ginbe's expression was immediately overshadowed by a passing cloud.

"Even though I have many things that I find unsatisfactory in you, there is just this point of yours which I am totally helpless in. I was confident in not losing to anyone if we are to talk about the closeness in the relationship between us. However, that single advantage is totally gone

as of just now..... My my, that's exactly what the term 'missing the opportunity' is referring to."

"Hmm? What did you just say?"

"What's even more unexpected, is the fact that Akito is actually a hopeless sis-con. To add on, I had just transferred over, and yet so many rivals have already emerged....."

"I say, Ginbe, can you speak louder? I can't quite hear you."

"It's fine if you didn't. Because I have no intention of letting you hear it."

Ginbe turned around and pouted.

Oh boy.

She had said something like 'as per usual, things have developed into this', but that should be my line instead. It feels uncomfortable to see her grumbling to herself, and I have experienced that mode of hers countless times already.

"Ginbe, you are really terrible."

"What?"

"You being so secretive will cause me to be at a loss. I do hope you spare a thought the victim, who is me."

"Hmph, that's something I do not want to hear coming from you. Or rather, out of everyone in this world, you are the only one who do not deserve to say that to me. You are the one who is always saying things unknowingly, that will make me at a loss..... Even if it is just a hundredth of what you have always done to me, I do wish you can have a taste of those sorts of feelings."

"What do you mean by saying things unknowingly? When had I said things like that? Tell me in greater details, so that I can try to take note of it."

"Ah, enough, how irritating. Please just shut up. At this very instance, every single word of yours, no, your very existence itself will be pissing me off to no end."

"What's with that? Isn't that just going overboard?"

It was as though I was affected by Ginbe's feelings as well. I was beginning to feel slightly angry.

Of course, I am used to arguing with her, but that doesn't mean our relationship will not be strained no matter what sort of things we say or do.

"I know I am stepping over the line, but I still have to say it. Ginbe, I think it is better if you are to fix up that stubborn attitude of yours."

"You are saying what?"

"The fact that you are being all pissed off, despite you not expressing your thoughts and feelings to the opposite party. If you do not tell me properly, then how will I know what went wrong, right?"

"..... There is a limit to who and where I will adopt that sort of attitude. In regards to that, it is about time that you realize it as well. That's how I feel."

"Eh? You were saying?"

"Nothing. I am just mumbling to myself."

"There you go again. That is why I say, how will I know what you are thinking?"

"Who cares. I have no intention of letting you know what I'm thinking at a place like this."

"Isn't that strange? You are the one who is angry at me for not understanding you, and now you are angry at me for trying to understand you."

"Ah enough! You are really a guy who loves to dwell on the tiny details. Please just shut up."

With that, Ginbe turned her face away, baring her animosity in full view.

Well well.

Without that fault of hers, she would have been the best friend one can ever have.

"..... You are really fuming mad. Normally, you are someone who has a clear train of thought, but only at times like these, you will become surprisingly emotional. Isn't that just wasting away the cute face of yours?"

"What did you just say?"

Ginbe turned her head back towards me menacingly.

Her expressions were very solemn, and she seemed to be in a very serious attitude. Shit, had I really caused her to be enraged?

"Urm, nothing. Nothing important."

"Say it again once more."

"Ugh, I am really sorry. You had asked me to shut up, and there I was, continuing on and on. I am sorry."

"That no longer matters. Just repeat what you had just said."

"Ahhh, mmm..... Urm, 'You are really fuming mad. Normally, you are someone who has a clear train of thought', something like that."

"No, slightly after that."

" 'but only at times like these, you will become surprisingly emotional' - this?"

"No, not that."

"Ugh, what I was trying to say is, if you are angry, I hope you can at least tell me the reasons for your anger. I said something along that line."

"I am not asking about the implications behind your sentences. You had just said that my face is very cute, right?"

"Ahh, yeah. I said..... it?"

"You are not trying to tell me that you have already forgotten what you had just said?"

"Ah no. Come to think of it, I did say it. Yup, I said it."

"..... Is that so."

Ginbe had tried her best to move her petite body as close to me as possible, and she was staring straight into my eyes with those green eyes of hers, leading me to think that I had really pissed her off. However,

that does not seemed to be the case.

"Is that so. I am cute?"

As per usual, she was mumbling something in a voice which I could not hear.

"..... Akito."

"Hmm? Yes?"

"Am I cute?"

"Ah, hmm. I think you are quite cute?"

"That's you finding me cute as a boy, or am I cute as a girl?"

" ? What sort of weird question is that. Why will I find you cute as a guy, when you are a girl through and through? Of course, there was a period of time when I did not know you are a girl....."

"I-Is that so. Mmm, that's right. But..... eh?"

For some odd reason, Ginbe began talking incoherently.

"What's with that - so he does see me as a woman? Should I say I am pleasantly surprised, or it is out of my expectations - no, but isn't that infuriating as well? Since he does see me as a woman, then his treatment towards me up till now is really just - no, despite that, this is still an excellent gain for me. Ah, really, I never thought things will develop like this - uwaa, what is happening? Is being praised as cute by that guy really something to be this happy about? My heart is thumping wildly, and if I am not careful, my face will go into a relaxed state-"

"..... Oi. Gin?"

"W-What?"

"Are you fine? Your face is flushed red."

"Uh..... No, nothing, I am fine. It's just a slight cold."

"No no no. Even so, it is still too strange for your face to be that red in an instant. It still looks pretty normal not too long ago."

"You are still as long-winded as ever. It is a cold alright. Look, my skin is so fair, any slight changes in my body will be shown immediately."

"Indeed, that may be true for people with fair skin..... But still, you should have told me about it earlier if you are suffering from a cold. If I had known earlier, I would not have made you take part in the spring cleaning."

"Ahh enough, how very irritating. Let us finish up the cleaning quickly. If we are to continue to talk, we will not be able to stick to the plan."

"No no no, it can't do. You must take a rest if you are feeling unwell."

"I don't need a rest. Come on, let us continue."

"Look, you can't."

Just as I was exasperated by my strangely stubborn good friend, I grabbed onto her arm.

That was because it looked like she was planning to ignore my advice and continue working, so I wanted to stop her even if things are to get a little rough. However,

"Kyaa!?"

She violently shook off my arm which was grabbing onto her.

Sigh, she is a really stubborn lass. She is usually a smart person, and is normally an extremely calm person. However, there are occasions where she would do things that are unlike her personality.

Hmm? Speaking of which.....

"Ginbe."

"W-What?"

"Did you just scream 'Kyaa!?' just now?"

"..... Ah."

And then, her face began to blush. Much redder than before.

"I-It's just your illusion. The auditory hallucinations that we frequently speak of. Or you can say it as paracusia. If not, it must be something that your brain has made up."

"Why do I have to do things like that..... it's not like I have a problem with it. I was just surprised that you had let out that sort of scream. I really can't imagine that, considering Ginbe's usual manner of speech."

"S-Sorry about that. I may not look like it, but I am still a girl. No matter how small or how frail I am."

"Hey, don't put on such a willful expression..... I have never once said that it is something bad. I think it is good, like that sound that you had made just now. Isn't that just cute?"

"Ugu."

I had thought that Ginbe's face could not be anymore redder, but it actually turned into a deeper shade of red,

"This guy..... his natural personality really does kick in only at times like these....."

" ? Huh? What are you saying?"

"N-Nothing at all! Enough of this, I shall just leave this place to Akito! Since more than half of the work is already done, you should be fine by yourself, right!? I'll take a brief rest in my room!"

"Ah, hold on, Gin-"

Without waiting for my answer, Ginbe dashed out of the room like a rabbit.

"....."

Leaving me alone, feeling all lonely by myself.

"..... I'll continue it then."

There were no other options.

In the end, I silently finished the work which my friend entrusted to me by myself.

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 6: 13th April, AM10:30

Onii-ai vol 4 will be released in Japan on 25th October. I was quite apprehensive about how bad the cover will be, since it is Nikaido's cover, but surprisingly, the cover is much better than anticipated.

To think I was still deciding on whether to start Sayonara Piano Sonata as buffer between Hyouketsu Kyoukai's chapters..... Looks like I can postpone making that decision for now (maybe, depending on how fast the translations for Onii-ai comes out).

Anyway, here's chapter 6. Akito needs to grow a pair.

Enjoy.
****

The me who had spent a good amount of time clearing the remaining work, will be heading down to the huge courtyard of the hostel next.

Mainly roses and rhododendrons were grown in the courtyard, that is big enough to hold a mini sports festival. Still, there were other plants there as well, including huge sized trees such as oak and beech. It was said that up till ten years ago, there was a lawn and garden of sorts, which would be used to hold events such as a garden tour for the nearby residents during the right seasons.

Needless to say, those were all in the past.

Currently, the place is merely a wasteland putting on the name of 'courtyard', filled with weeds everywhere. I am in full awe of the sheer will of nature, but if possible, I do hope they will be slightly more considerate when they are growing lushly. The invasive nature of the weeds are rampant, resulting in quite a bit of problems when we were trying to secure a place for drying of our clothes, back when we had first moved into this place.

Alright.

The person in charge of the number one most difficult place, is vice-president Nasuhara Anastasia.

Quite some time had already passed since the start of spring cleaning, so how is her progress?

Honestly speaking, this place should be quite difficult to handle. It has reached a state where I felt it would be more realistic to hire some gardeners to handle it, but there is the rule of 'all residents should try their best to resolve their own problems by themselves'.

Well, Nasuhara did say something like, "Just leave the courtyard to me". She should have quite some self-belief or confidence to be saying that. Let me take a good look at her abilities then-

While thinking of that, I walked into the courtyard.

Nasuhara was sleeping soundly on the dead grass.

"*Wadda heck, you are goofin' off*!?"

I yelled that in Kyoto dialect without thinking.

From just a brief scan at the scene, it seemed like nothing was done. What exactly was she doing during the few hours that had passed?

"Hey Nasuhara! Nasuhara!?"

"..... Guu, guu....."

"Whoa, this lass is actually snoring..... I say, oi! Wake up! How can a girl sleep at a place like this!? You'll catch a cold, you know!?"

"..... Umm..... I can eat no more....."

"Just snoring is not enough, now you are actually sleep-talking!?"

And that was some horrifyingly old-fashioned sleep-talk.

From her current looks, one cannot imagine her as the talented beauty who emerged victorious from the school's beauty contest - it was so bad, she should kneel down and apologize to those who had voted for her.

"Oi Nasuhara Anastasia! Wake up!"

"..... Munyu munyu....."

"You are a daughter from a well-to-do family, and you are our vice-president in the students' council too, right!? Please think about stuff like these!"

"Munyu..... Ha?"

Nasuhara opened her eyes in a flash. There was finally some sort of response from her.

Her upper body sprang up as though it had springs installed in them. She looked left and right for a few times,

"..... Ahh. I've entered a dazed state unknowingly."

"No way. It's not something as cute as being dazed. You are practically sleeping with all your might."

"That can't be right. Ultimately, I was just taking a short rest. Please do not slander me."

"That's not slandering, alright. Your snores had shook even the skies."

"Fufu, that's a really good joke. An absolute beauty like me would actually snore..... I can't help but laugh just by imagining that scene - that's a really marvelous combination. That imagination of yours is better than I had imagined."

"No no. That's not my imagination. That's a fact."

"Alright, I shall award you high praises for that talent of yours. I'll write a letter of recommendation to the higher-ups of the Kyoto Manzai Association. You should go for an audition." [TLNote: Manzai (漫才) is a traditional style of stand-up comedy in Japanese culture. Wiki if interested]

"..... Sometimes, you act as though you have some sort of connections within the circles of the comedy industry."

Her golden hair and blue eyes, together with

a permanently expressionless face.

Also, although she has a wicked tongue, she does know when to act silly.

Eh?

It seemed like I had stumbled on a rather tantalizing possibility?

"In any case, I am not joking. You were really snoring."

"Fufu, so you are actually trying to force that ridiculously silly stand of yours to me. However, that sort of forcefulness is perhaps just what is needed from you in the comedy industry today."

"So you are going to continue on with that gag.....?"

"As long as you do not play along with it."

"So my attempt to be polite has backfired..... oh well. In any case, you snoring is the truth. And not just that, you were dream-talking as well."

"That is a really humiliating insult. If you do not wish to be charged to court, and end up with the verdict of having to compensate me with huge amounts of cash for the damages done against me, then you better start by retracting those imprudent words of yours."

"No no, that's not an insult or anything. You had really said it."

"Do you have proof?"

"Proof?"

"Since you are so insistent on it, you should at least have some sort of proof to substantiate your claims, right?"

Of course I had nothing like that. Not to mention, there was only Nasuhara and me in this place then.

"I see. You have no proof."

"Indeed, I have no proof. But the truth is still the truth-"

"Then tell that so called truth of yours to anyone you like, and try to see if they will believe you. Me, the finest beauty of St. Ririana Academy ever in history, and someone who has received all sorts of gifted education, has actually done something like rudely sleeping in the courtyard of the hostel, accompanied with snoring and sleep-talking. Like that."

"Ugh?"

I shut my mouth after she said that.

I was not too sure of the situation due to me having just transferred over, but it is without doubt that Nasuhara Anastasia is someone who enjoys the highest appraisals in St. Ririana Academy. She normally gives the act of a 'mysterious and intellectual beauty', so I will probably be snuffed in the face by everyone if I am to actually do as she had suggested.

"Hmph. Looks like you have finally understood your stand. You should be in awe of the difference between the trustworthiness between us in the hierarchy pyramid, and just run to a corner and cry your guts out while cursing your poor luck."

"What's with that look of detest coming from you..... Speaking of which, you had said something like 'Ultimately, I was just taking a short rest', right?"

"Yes. So I did."

"When exactly did that start?"

"Let's see. It should be from about eight in the morning."

"It's already ten-thirty now, you know?"

That can be considered to be a deep sleep, no matter how you look at it.

"Ten-thirty? What an interesting joke."

"It's not a joke. You can take a look at my watch."

"Fufu, so you had changed the time on your watch in a desperate attempt to continue with that joke of yours - that's a pretty impressive resolve from you. I'll write a letter of recommendation to the higher-ups of the Kyoto Manzai Association. You should go for-"

"No, enough of that already."

"Ara, is that so. What a shame."

"Continuing on, you have been lying dead here since about eight, and it is currently past ten-thirty already. Do you admit that?"

"Well, that's quite common. Things like your watch displaying the wrong time."

"Well, my watch just so happens to be a radio-controlled watch. It is said to be accurate right down to within a second in a period of ten thousand years."

"Ara, is that so. Then there must be something wrong with the radio frequency. Or perhaps it is the laws of the universe that is wrong."

"That's a really grand way of pushing away your responsibilities."

Looks like Nasuhara will not be admitting her mistakes, no matter what happens.

Then again, there is actually no reason for me to be going through all these. I could have easily obtained the correct time from a brief check.

"..... Well, let us end the topic here."

"Since you have put it that way, then let us just leave it as that. Even though I am perfectly fine continuing on that topic for a few more hours, judging from your abilities, it is indeed too cruel to be expecting that from you."

"What's with that look of grace and superiority coming from you..... Ugh, well, in any case, can you please brief me on the situation? What is the status of the cleaning of the courtyard."

"Just as you see. Nothing was done at all."

"That isn't something you should be saying proudly..... Urm, still, a few hours have already passed since I had left this place to your care, right?"

"Yes. Indeed."

"Even if you had spent half your time sleeping, there should still be plenty of time available for you to work, right?"

"Mmm, yes. So there is."

"What had you done within that period of time?"

"Work. The job of cleaning the courtyard, which you had assigned me to do."

"..... If so, isn't things progressing a little too slowly?"

"I have gathered a lot of dead grass, you know."

"..... That is neither cleaning nor tidying. It is just you staking them up so that you can use it as a bed to roll around in it, right?"

"How rude. I'll be calling the police."

"Don't disturb the policemen for mundane matters like these."

It is precisely due to people like you, that has resulted in the policemen of Japan being overworked, thus causing an increase in crime rates.

"All in all, can you please tell me the reason for the lack of progress?"

"Let's see. It must be because it is all physical work, and I was working bare-handed."

"Then use tools. You know, tools."

"I have no idea what tools to use for the job."

"Well, it's just..... For example, putting a pair of protective gloves, and using a sickle to cut the grass. Isn't there plenty?"

"I have no idea where the tools are."

"There's a small shed at the corner of the courtyard, right? They are all kept there."

"Ara, is that so. Lesson learned."

"....."

What's with this?

Should I say that I was so astonished that I did not know how to reply, or that we somehow could not connect.

Or rather, there is a serious problem concerning Nasuhara, and the problem can be easily noticed if I had put in effort to do so, and yet I could not notice it just yet.

"In any case, I have handed over the task of cleaning the courtyard to you, and you yourself had said, 'Please leave the cleaning of the courtyard to me' as well. Please put more effort into it. Akiko, Kaichou and Ginbe are all doing their best in their assigned jobs."

"..... Fu. Looks like I have no choice."

Nasuhara gave a sigh, and shook her head gently.

Her long lashes drooped, and she said sullenly.

"Looking at how things are right now, it will be better if I come clean. At the very least, you have the right to know."

"Eh?"

What?

It was my first time seeing her like that.

Her anguish was as if she was about to announce the world is coming to an end. For Nasuhara Anastasia to be that gloomy - what exactly was she planning to say?

"Listen carefully. Please do not faint after hearing what I am about to

say."

"W-What's with that? What are you going to say? Please don't scare me, I am faint-hearted."

"You can no longer escape. Since you are the caretaker of the hostel, you should at least be prepared for things like this?"

"So I say, please don't scare me-"

"Actually, I am a girl who cannot do any sort of housework."

"....."

I was helplessly stunned.

"Eh? Huh? What did you say?"

"Actually, I am a girl who cannot do any sort of housework."

"Eh? Really?"

"Yes. Really."

Nasuhara nodded without a change in expression.

That was indeed something of quite some impact. Though it was rather different from what I had imagined.

So Nasuhara Anastasia does not know how to do any housework - no, upon thinking deeper, that is not something that surprising. She is the daughter of famous Nasuhara Industries, so that is quite understandable. It's the same back when I was doing a house visit to her house - her having bodyguards and maids was something that is quite natural. There's various other things as well. She does indeed feels like a pampered lady.

No, but even still, the members of the students' council are all extremely capable. My younger sister, Kaichou and Ginbe are all doing the housework normally, so I had assumed that Nasuhara is the same as well.

"I don't know any sort of housework - honestly speaking, I am a girl who is absolutely not suitable to be living together with others in a hostel. Ahem."

"No, that is not something you should be saying proudly..... if so, you should have just said so earlier. There was no need for you to volunteer doing it with an air of confidence."

"It's not like it is something that can be done by a person. I had thought it will turn into a situation where the gardeners will be taking care of it all."

"Well, it is a pretty huge courtyard."

"In short, due to various reasons, I had decided to bluff my way through during the job assigning - that's how it is. I had a motive for doing that as well. I thought that I'll be able to keep it hidden, about the fact that I am a girl who can't live by herself, due to me being too fragile and not flexible from growing up in a pampered environment; that I am a girl who will be at my wits end if I am to be thrown into the society by myself, right now. Hmph, go ahead and laugh at me if you want to."

"No, I have no intention of laughing at you."

"I can lick your shoes if you wish."

"No, that is just stooping too low."

She was actually still looking down on me not too long ago. She sure changed quickly.

However, she was still her expressionless and monotonous self, so my impression of her was not too different, regardless of her looking down on me or looking up to me.

"Then again, don't you need to clean up in school? No matter how pampered you are, it still can't be that you have zero experience in cleaning at all, right?"

St. Ririana Academy is a school that emphasizes on respecting the autonomy of students.

Despite their large funds, they did not use a single cent of it to hire cleaning companies to take care of the cleanliness of the school. Due to that, even someone like Nasuhara should have a chance to learn techniques on cleaning.

"That is because I am treated like a goddess in my class. All the cleaning which I am supposed to do, is all done by my devotees."

"Ah- indeed. You do give others that sort of impression. As long as you do not open your mouth to speak."

"Or rather, they had no intention of letting me do chores like cleaning. 'It is a sacrilege for Nasuhara's hands to be stained from cleaning', that's what they said."

"You are really raised to high heavens..... Do those people ask for any returns from you?"

"Mmm, they will be happy as long as I show them a brief smile? Probably just once in a month will do."

That's really little.

Those people do have not much desires, if they are satisfied from something as simple as that..... Forget it, that's what the devotees and worshipers are all about anyway.

"Have you understood the situation now?"

"Mmm, well, generally. Being treated specially do have its own problems as well."

"That's how it is. I am your so called victim from the twisted current-day society."

"..... I just can't accept that frankly, seeing the sort of expression you have when you are saying that."

"As such, I have a request for you."

"Hmm? What request?"

"I hope you can offer me all sorts of assistance, in regards to me not knowing a single thing about housework."

"Mmm. In exact, what are you looking for in my assistance?"

"Hmm. For example, you are to help me finish all of my tasks by yourself. Things like that."

"No, I am not your devotee. And also, I am very busy."

"I think it's just too terrible. You've exposed all of my secrets, and now you are leaving me to die by myself."

"No, it's not like I was the one who exposed them..... instead, you are the one who had revealed them all, right?"

"Indeed, I understand. I must be foolish for trying to negotiate without showing my sincerity - that's what you are trying to imply."

"Actually, I don't mean it like that at all."

"Well then, how about offering you my body as a gift?"

"I humbly decline."

"Why must you decline? Are you saying my body lacks any sort of attractiveness?"

"No, I don't mean it like that."

"I understand. You are saying that just once is not enough. You want me to offer my body and soul to you from now onward. Though it is very difficult for me to make the resolve..... alright, I accept your request."

"No, like I have said, that's not it."

She had said that it was difficult for her to make the resolve, but there was not a slightest waver in Nasuhara's expression.

Uhh- mmm. I still think it is better for girls not to make that sort of statement as and when they like. Even if it is a joke.

"Whatever, I understand. Let's not dwell on the details for now. I'll just try to make it as easy for you as possible. That's what I had intended to do initially anyway."

"I see, thank you. I am grateful of your decision. As such, in return, allow me to use my body-"

"No, I've said there is no need for that already."

"You don't need it? You are actually giving up on the rights to do as you wish on me, just like that?"

"Mhmm."

"You can actually do as you like? You can just release your desires and do beep— and beep— to me?"

Nasuhara was so irritatingly persistent.

Also, the "beep—" sound was made by her, but it just somehow feels surprisingly realistic. Perhaps she is good at mimicking sounds? She's a girl with quite the strange talents.

"Forget it. In any case, I don't need it. Really."

"No regrets?"

"Mmm. I don't think I will."

"You won't regret in the future?"

"No no."

"Hmph. Really?"

Nasuhara stared at me intently as she said that.

Her expressions didn't change, and the same goes for the looks of her eyes. As usual, I had no idea what she was thinking about, but,

"..... So this won't work. Yet another lesson learned."

"Hmm? You saying?"

"Nothing at all. Well, you are willing to make things easy for me without asking for anything in return. Can I interpret it that way?"

"Mmm, no problem. You can't expect me to do all of your tasks, but I'll try to assist you as much as I can."

"Generally speaking, what sort of help will you be offering me?"

"Let's see..... First, I'll definitely help to safeguard your secret, that's for certain. However, since we are living together, it is not quite possible to keep it hidden forever."

"So it is."

"Which means we have only one way to get out of this. You will have to know how to do housework, before the secret is revealed."

"But, there is a possibility that I am not born with the talent to do it."

"That may be the case, but I don't think there is anything that you can't do. Also, this is purely just a matter of experience."

"I don't think I can do it."

"No no. Nothing of that sort."

Nasuhara was surprisingly uneasy about it.

"You are good in studies and sports, and a beauty who has won the beauty contest, right? In sort, you are an elite, right? Also, you are more capable than my younger sister in just about everything, right? So you can do it. Even if you are not good at it, you will get it someday if you keep trying to remember it."

"Which means, no matter how poor my memory is, you will never give up on me, and will teach me properly until I am able to do it?"

"Eh? Ahh, well..... Yeah, just like that."

"You will take care of me?"

"Well..... that's the only option. Though I think it will definitely be much better if you are taught by Kaichou, Ginbe or Akiko. But whatever floats your boat."

"Is that so. I see."

With that.

Just for a brief moment, Nasuhara smiled vaguely.

..... Ohhhhh-

It has been a while since I had seen her smile.

Well, that expression of hers. It is indeed great.

"Hey. I have been thinking since then."

"What?"

"Nasuhara, that expression of yours is much better, isn't it?"

" ? What do you mean by my expression?"

"Urm. I am not talking about the indifferent expression that you have currently. That smile of yours earlier, it is definitely much more charming than usual."

"....."

After a short moment of silence, Nasuhara turned around so that her back is facing me,

"We have wasted quite a bit of time to talk about unnecessary things. Alright, let us start on the cleaning. Can you teach me how to do it now?"

"Eh? Ahh, mmm. That's not a problem."

"My incompetence will come to light if we do not have any sort of progress. Hurry."

Due to that, we hastily started to work on the task again. During that period of time, Nasuhara's face was faintly red for the whole time.

That was due to her working in the cold weather - I'll leave it to everyone to decide if that is the sole reason for her blushing.

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 7: 13th April, PM0:15

I usually drop suffixes like -chan or -san, because I deem them unnecessary, unless the situation calls for it (example, when Akiko starts calling Akito his name in vol 1). Suffix like -sama and -senpai are usually added in cause it denotes respect.

In the case of Akito, he usually calls Nasuhara by 'Nasuhara-san', Ginbe directly by name, and same with Akiko. As for Nikaido, it's Kaichou-san, or Nikaido-senpai and its variants.

Mentioning it here cause this chapter involves them coming up with

ways to address each other, so yeah. Just a reminder.

Enjoy.
****

"Let's decide on how we address each other."

While all the residents were enjoying lunch together, after the spring cleaning was finished.

President of students' council, Nikaido Arashi, said that.

"How we address each other?"

"Yup. The names for each of us."

Kaichou nodded strongly at me, who was tilting my head, and said,

"There is a great significance in how people address each other. Even if it is just a sort of label at others, and sometimes to oneself, there can be a huge change to one's life just by changing the way you address someone else."

"Haa. So it means we are going to do that? To decide on the nickname of each other?"

"It doesn't have to be nicknames. Adding or removing the '-san' suffix for example - that will do too."

"Mhmm."

"Simply speaking, me, Nasuhara and Himenokouji-imouto have known each other for quite a while already, so let us set that aside. However,

Ginbe and you are both new faces that have just joined the students' council in this year. Truthfully speaking, our friendship is not that deep yet, so I am still deciding on how we should be treating each other. That's what I am thinking."

"Indeed."

"Moreover, we are now living together. We should not be treating each other as outsiders anymore."

"Mmm. In other words, rather than spending the time to blindly feel our way through on how we be treating each other, we should just be direct about it and settle it now, right?"

"Well, that's how it is."

I see, I can understand what she is trying to say.

Whether for better or worse, the physical and psychological distance between us have shrunk greatly within a short time. As such, it feels like we have skipped through a lot of things that should have happened at a gradual pace.

Well, I think it is something that will be resolved naturally given time..... But perhaps it will be much simpler to just take the opportunity and clear everything together. Moreover, given Kaichou's personality, that should be even more so.

"Like you have said. This is perhaps a good opportunity for us."

"Yeah. It is really great for a caretaker like you to be so understanding."

"No no, nothing of that sort. I may not even realize it if not for Kaichou suggesting it. As expected from the president of the students' council of St. Ririana Academy."

"Really? Oh my, it is embarrassing if you praise me like that."

"Please, there is no need to be humble. In regards to you being concerned about our matters - I am not flattering you, I really do think you are impressive. As expected of Kaichou."

"Oh my. Actually, for me, when I am hooking up my lovers, I must address them with a special name that only I will use, yeah. I am not quite comfortable about us being reserved about the way we call each other."

"Mmm. I think we should just forget about this plan."

There has to be a limit to your self-destruction.

"I was thinking, how rare it is for me to praise you, so that's how it all ends huh. Please return me my innocence."

"Alright. As such."

Kaichou ignored my protests,

"So let us start now. Just relax, and treat it as a sideshow for lunch. It's not like we will be using everything that we will come up with. Will that be alright, caretaker?"

"..... I guess."

"Alright, it's decided then. Let us start with deciding on how we should be calling our caretaker, Himenokouji Akito-"

"Can I interrupt for a moment?"

Ginbe raised her hands as she said that.

"Since things have came to this, we might as well come up with a different name for everyone here. How's that? It is too lacking if we are just to think of something that naturally comes to our mind. I think my suggestion will allow us to show our own personalities. It will be much more interesting this way."

"Hohoo. That is quite the interesting idea you have there."

"Just to add on, allow me to address Akito as per usual, with the name 'Akito'. I have been with him for quite long already, and that's how I have always been calling him. It is more natural to me that way too. Didn't Kaichou say that we do not have to force ourselves for coming up with a nickname?"

"Yeah. If you think that is fine, then so be it."

"Well, everything aside from me, please think of a way to address Akito. Let us start with Kaichou, since you are the person who has suggested this idea."

"Hmm, let's see....."

Kaichou rubbed her chin a little, and laughed silently,

"Alright, it's decided. I'll be addressing Himenokouji Akito by the name 'target'."

"Nope."

I rejected immediately.

"Why not? It's not like you will lose anything."

"I will. The name 'target' is not really something appropriate for us

companions who are living together, right? Please put in some common sense, you know, common sense."

And Kaichou's 'target' will surely have a 'sexual' connotation to it. It will result in me trembling each time she calls me like that.

"Then how should I address you?"

"Isn't the typical 'Himenokouji Akito' fine? Kaichou usually calls me by my full name when you are talking to me, no?"

"Ehhh~? But that is really troublesome. Indeed, I somehow got used to calling you by your full name without knowing it. But it is too long, and I may bite my tongue accidentally."

"Well, you reap the what you sow, so just accept it. Isn't it just fine since you are already used to it? One of the main focus for this activity is to accentuate your own personality, right?"

"But, won't it be really troublesome during an emergency?"

"Emergency, what sort of emergency?"

"For example, should you be lost in a certain mountain, then I will have no choice but to call out your name repeatedly. Don't you think it is really inefficient for me to be shouting 'Hinemokouji Akito~! Hinemokouji Akito~!' at that sort of critical situation?"

"There is no need for you to be thinking that far ahead. Alright, next."

I forcefully shifted the attention to the next person.

Generally, things have always been going by how Kaichou wants it to be, so I'll consider this to be evening things out. As the caretaker, I accept no objections.

"Urm, well then, Nasuhara."

"Yes?"

"The way to address me. You come up with anything?"

"Let me see-"

The golden haired vice-president took a sip of tea,

"Let's go with this. I will call you 'darling'."

"Rejected."

"Why?"

"Urm, no matter what, that's a little too intimidating, don't you think so? The distance between us."

"You really say all sorts of strange things. One of the aims of this activity, is to shorten the distance between us fellow residents, no?"

"Though it is like that..... no, that's still a little too extreme. Please try to come up with something else."

"I will think about it, if you marry with me."

"No no, if we are to get married, then it will really become 'darling', no? That no longer has anything to do with my nickname."

As always, she do as she please.

Well, as per usual, she had said all that with a blank expression. That is a great help, since it is much easier for me to handle it. If I have to treat

everything she says seriously, I don't think my body will be able to take it.

"In any case, no. Please come up with something else."

"Then tell me briefly, what sort of names are acceptable for you?"

"Uh- Hmm, let me see..... How should I put it - it will be better if it is something more normal."

"I understand. Then I will address you with 'anata' from now onward." [TLNote: if you don't already know, anata means 'you' in formal usage, but it is also an intimate way for the wife to address her husband]

"Ugh, hold on a second. Certainly, from a point of view, it is something very typical, but that is still a little strange."

"How is it strange?"

"Because the 'you' are talking about, is not the 'you' as a pronoun, but rather, it has the meaning of 'husband', right?"

"Stop with your yakking, it is really irritating. If you still continue on complaining about my innovations, which took me a hard time to come up with, I will make you hand wash my lingerie everyday."

"I don't think I can become a man with such dedication and self-sacrifice."

"Of course, you will have to iron them for me as well."

"It's not like they are blouses or suits, I don't really see the point in doing so."

"You are really a man with lots of complains. Say anymore, and I shall

perform Swanton Bomb on you as a punishment."

"Are you familiar with pro-wrestling as well.....?"

An embodiment of surprises, that's the sort of girl she is.

Incidentally, that is a maneuver that is extremely difficult to pull off. Kids, don't try this at home.

"In any case, that is shot down as well. Please come up with a really normal name. Not those with hidden meanings."

"It can't be helped."

As she said that, Nasuhara made an effort to come up with something.

"Well then, I will just call you 'Aki' from now on."

"And just like that, it has changed into an intimate nickname!"

She's a girl who I really cannot predict where she will jump to next.

She is totally like a string of firecrackers. Or a rugby ball.

"What is with that reaction of yours? Are you going to complain at that as well?"

"Ahh no, it is indeed what I had requested, so I should have nothing to say in regards to that..... However, can't you think of something else?"

"It is as you have requested, and there's nothing wrong with it - so why do I have to think of something else?"

"Well..... That is quite obvious, right?"

"Fu. After seeing you putting on that expression of dislike, my determination has strengthened. In the future, I will have to insist on it to the point of being stubborn, and call you by nothing else but 'Aki'."

"..... Ehh-? You have really decided on using that?"

"I have already yielded twice, and compromised till I have finally come up with a nickname that fits your requirements. If this still cannot do, then don't you think you are being a little too unreasonable here?"

"Ugh, it is indeed so, but....."

"Then please take care of me, Aki?"

Whoa, it felt disgusting!

Though I shouldn't be saying this, and I am really sorry towards her, but that was just really disgusting!

As she is a girl without much expressions or variations to her tone of speech, only she can cause this sort of feelings to me when she is greeting me kindly..... Just like how one mistaken salt for sugar and licks it, or like how one puts in soy sauce instead of sauce in their cold dishes. Uwa—. How disgusting—. [TLNote: sauce refers to those Japanese worcestershire sauce (the brown sauce they squiggle onto tonkatsu), but they typically refer to it as 'sauce']

Forget it..... This is a one-off incident, so I can only pray that Nasuhara will change her mind when the time comes.

"..... Urm, well then, that's all for my names?"

"Please wait. I will be very disturbed if you are to forget about the most important me, the younger sister Akiko, who is deeply in love with her elder brother."

"No, it's not about forgetting you or anything."

Looking at my sister, who was raising her hand, and looking like she had been eagerly awaiting for her turn, I tilted my head,

"You are my younger sister. There is no need for you to deliberately come up with a way of addressing me, right?"

"No need to - Why is that so?"

"What do you mean by that, we both are siblings to begin with."

"Why is there no need for consideration in regards to the way I address you, just because we are siblings?"

" ? Urm, because, isn't the way you should be addressing me been long decided already?"

Of course, not too long ago, we had similar little game where she came up with various ways to address me. But that is an exception out of the exceptions.

"How else can you address me other than 'onii-chan'? Is there any other names?"

"That's right. I just call Onii-chan directly as 'onii-chan'."

"..... Stop beating around the bush. Just come straight to the point."

"Fufu. That means."

My sister lifted her nose,

"I call Onii-chan as 'onii-chan'. That is a logic that needs no explanation,

and no one can say anything against it. Just as everyone was busy coming up with a name for Onii-chan, I am the only person who need not wreck my brain over such a troublesome problem. I just want to emphasize that."

"..... And, what are you trying to say?"

"Ultimately, I am trying to talk about my absolute bonds with Onii-chan! For the past sixteen years since we were born, the practice we have between us blood-related siblings is something that no one can stop, and not even god can infringe on us."

"Haa."

"And also, there is the sense of superiority, as I am the only one in this world who can address Onii-chan with 'onii-chan'! Everyone can be a little more jealous and envious of me, someone who is a unique and special presence to Onii-chan!"

My sister was trying desperately to advocate her advantages in front of everyone.

That speech was quite exaggerated - ultimately speaking, the conclusion reached was not that much different from usual.

"To think you have always said things like 'us being blood-related siblings are just a minor problem!'..... So you will only bring that sort of things out when it is to your advantage."

"I don't care what you say. It will not do if I do not fully utilize all of my assets, and defend the throne that is being the legal wife of Onii-chan."

"What's with the legal wife and stuff. I don't even have a designated girlfriend yet."

"We are currently in the era of the warring states."

Ignoring my feeble protests, my sister became even more engrossed with her grand speech.

"This hostel which exists solely for Onii-chan and I, has currently turned into an evil place filled with cocky trespassing demons. In the current time, where I can no longer live a lovey-dovey life with Onii-chan, I will have to emphasize the bonds that Onii-chan and I share whenever there is a chance to do so, no matter how minor it is."

"You are still as exaggerated as ever."

"Naive, you are too naive! This is a battle that concerns my life and death, but Onii-chan still cannot understand!"

"Urm, even if you say that to me."

"..... Himenokouji Akito. Let's just stop there."

Just then, Kaichou interrupted.

She shook her head, while putting on a painful expression, as though she had attended a meeting throughout the night,

"Up till now, I have always loved your sister. As the secretary of the students' council, she works for me faithfully, and her bright smile will always lightens up the mood of the students' council. But thinking back, I had been too reliant on her. I am sorry, that is a mistake I've made, as the president of the students' council. I no longer have the right to face you, her elder brother."

"W-What's wrong Kaichou? You have suddenly became really respectful."

"Himenokouji Akiko."

Ignoring my fluster, Kaichou stood up from her seat.

She then walked to Akiko's back, and placed her hands on Akiko's shoulders, while putting on a gentle smile.

"I am really sorry, for not noticing the message that you had been giving off all these while. Don't worry, just focus on being affectionate with your brother from now on."

"W-Why is Kaichou..... saying things like this all of the sudden..... something's wrong? What's going on?"

"Ahh sorry, I've caused you to be frightened? Ah, there's no other meaning behind this. That's how I really feel from the bottom of my heart, so it is fine to accept whatever I had just said like it is? Okay?"

"Seito-kaichou."

Just then, Nasuhara interrupted.

"Why not let me take over the jobs of the secretary for the moment? In the mean time, you should consider relieving her from her jobs in the students' council."

"Oh, that's a good idea. Can I leave it to you then, Fuku-kaichou?"

"P-Please wait, both of you! That means you two are trying to fire me, right!? Ah..... that means it is a plan to chase me out of the students' council right!? That's it, right!?"

"Ahh, no, that's never my intention. It's just me feeling that things are being too tough for you, so I just want to be slightly more considerate..... I am really sorry. It seems like I have instead added on yet another

mental burden onto you. But please, I hope you can agree to my request."

"W-What request?"

"Talk to me if you are facing any difficulties. Open your heart to me if there is anything troubling you. And also, do not ever force yourself. I can't share your pain, but I can still provide you some assistance."

"Wha..... What's with this all of the sudden, it's so disgusting. Nasuhara has not just smiled to me, but she is actually doing such kind things out of the blue..... W-What exactly is happening next? A change in the world? Or the duel between god and devil?"

"Though I can't do much, please allow me to help as well."

This time, even Ginbe raised her hand.

"Despite us having met not too long ago, since you are the sister of my good friend, that means we are eating out of the same pot of rice. I hope I can do something for you within my limited means."

"E-Even Ginbe too.....?"

"It is fine whether to teach you my secret recipes, or the techniques to do housework. Or, I can tell you in details about the things that had happened during the past six years, when you and Akito were separated. The Akito whom you do not know - you must be interested in it, right?"

"Of course I am interested..... But why do you bring that up all of the sudden?"

"Nothing, it's simply just me being enthusiastic. There's nothing else to it. Mmm, definitely not."

"Uhh....."

Kaichou and Nasuhara and Ginbe.

Upon being treated by them that kindly out of the blue, my sister had obviously became wary.

"..... Urm, Onii-chan?"

"Hmm? What?"

"Everyone has said things like that..... but don't you think it is just a little too strange? They must be planning something behind all that, right?"

"Hmm-? Ah, well, since everyone has said that, how about trusting them just this once?"

"Yeah, Himenokouji, you should depend on your seniors at a time like this."

"It is not like I am a demon or anything. It is true that I had always clashed with your opinions many times up till now, but those are already things of the past. Compared to things like that, you should be worrying more about your body."

"You can't be more right than that. As for me, there is nothing more important than 'health', but it is something that is easily neglected at the same time. You are still young, so learn to treasure yourself more."

"..... Uhh, it is still very strange..... why is everyone saying such gentle things all of the sudden? This is totally like..... Ah!?"

My sister's eyes widened, as if she had realized something.

"Well, I don't that is possible, but Onii-chan."

"Mmm. Yes?"

"Could everyone think that I have some sort of illness.....?"

"W-What an idiot you are. What are you talking about?"

Kaichou stammered a little, and gave a troubled smile.

"There is not the slightest chance of us thinking like that, yeah? To think of you like that, who is not only our colleague in the students' council, but also a fellow resident living in the same hostel..... Isn't that right, Fuku-kaichou?"

"Y-Yes, I think you are thinking too deeply into it. Himenokouji, you must be tired. You will be fine if you take a good rest."

"Yup, I totally agree. Lil' sister, we are just slightly worried, because you are an extremely delicate and fragile girl - that's all there is to it. Don't force yourself too much, calm down, and don't ever get agitated. That's not good for your body, understand?"

"I-Isn't that treating me as though I am sick! Yes, I do love my blood-related brother the most, and I do want to step over the line of us being siblings together with Onii-chan, but that is all! Other than that, I am very normal!"

"Oh, of course, you are not abnormal or anything like that. I guarantee that under my name, Nikaido Arashi. Don't you agree, Fuku-kaichou?"

"Mhmm, yes, of course. If there is anyone calling you a pervert or humiliating you, don't hesitate and inform me about it. I will erase his existence from the society, and make him regret for having lived up till now."

"Everyone's right, lil' sister. There is no need for you to care about the gossips around you - you just have to live your own life, and continue walking on your path. Even if you screw up somewhere, we will be there to clear up the mess. Even if that sort of things happen, we all know, that you did not do it deliberately."

"..... Urm. Even though I don't think it is quite possible."

My sister, who was suddenly being treated really kindly, asked uneasily,

"Though I don't think it is quite possible..... you guys really don't see me as someone who is sick, right?"

"....."

"....."

"....."

Finally, they turned their sights away at the same time. Kaichou & Nasuhara & Ginbe.

"Eh? T-That's a joke, right? There you go again, everyone's so mean~"

"....."

"....."

"....."

"P-Please don't act like that, look at me properly. Neh? Quick. I am not scary, just someone who is very normal, right?"

"— Ah, don't worry, Himenokouji."

Kaichou could not take it any longer, and forced a still smile,

"You don't have to take it to heart, there is no need to worry. Even if you are sent to the hospital, we will still visit you everyday-"

"Kaichou! Please watch your words!"

"S-Sorry, Fuku-kaichou, I accidentally....."

"She is currently in a very precarious state, so please be careful. — Sorry, Himenokouji, do not worry, there is no need to be afraid. It will be fine if you leave everything to us."

"Exactly. Just leave it all to us. I promise you, that we will settle everything for you. Therefore, lil' sister, I hope you can just hold on for a while. No matter what happens, we will still be your companions, and your friends. Neh?"

"Uhhhhhhhhhhh~~~~~~~~~~~~~!"

My sister moaned, and stood up from her seat with her eyes in tears,

"I am not sick! I am very normal! Uwaaaaaa!"

With that, she dashed out of the canteen.

"..... Alright."

Kaichou drank her tea, as though nothing had happened.

"Well then, let us continue where we had left off. Whose nicknames should we come up with next?"

"..... Kaichou. And Nasuhara and Ginbe as well."

I could not pretend as though nothing has happened.

"Please restrain yourselves, alright? Though my younger sister is indeed a very fun person."

"Ka ka ka. Ahh, sorry sorry. That lass has the cutest reactions, and so I went overboard accidentally. But Himenokouji Akito, you are not in the position to talk, yeah? Hmm?"

Well, yeah.

The expressions of my ever-changing sister were really too interesting, so it was true that I had not stepped in right until the end.

Forget it. That girl is unrivaled in terms of her optimism and cheerfulness, so she should recover from that really soon. Everyone must have known that before they did that, so I think a precautionary warning should be more than enough here.

"Leaving that aside, let us continue with the nicknames. Personally, I will love to address Ginbe by 'Gin-Gin', how is that?"

"..... If possible, I hope we can avoid using that. It just sounds too frivolous, or rather, too cutesy, no?"

"I think it is great. It is a fact that you are very slim, and very cute."

However, it seems like everyone has already more or less figured out how to deal with my sister.

Not to mention, they had an understanding among each other, as though they had planned it all out right from the beginning. Everyone here can be an actress, and they are so good at it that I will not be surprised if some troupe is to approach them for their talents. Akiko would naturally

not be able to withstand the focus-fire from this group of people.

"If so, don't I have to start addressing Nasuhara as 'Ana-ana' too?" [TLNote: translates to hole-hole]

"Ara, that sort of nickname is not befitting of me, who is Miss Ririana Academy."

"Yeah, if it is me, I will want to call Fuku-kaichou 'pussy-cat' instead."

"Kaichou, that obviously has a sexual connotation to it, right? How about try coming up with something that is absolutely not related to that area, even if it is just once every ten years?"

In any case.

The sideshow started out partly for laughs, but we became surprisingly enthusiastic about it, and it continued on for quite some time. As for my sister, who was left out of it all by herself, I felt sorry for your loss. That's all.

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 8: 13th April, PM7:15

This chapter took some time, because I went into slight hardcore-gaming mode during the weekends.

Enjoy.
****

"Let's all take a bath together."

All of us were having dinner together at the canteen, when Kaichou suddenly said that.

"Since the olden days, the best way to improve relationships is to bare ourselves in front of others - that is of typical knowledge. So let us follow just that. How's that, caretaker?"

"Oh my-. How should I put it? In regards to that."

Facing the question thrown at me, I tilted my head as I stretched out my chopsticks towards the Saikyo-zuke spanish-mackerel in front of me. [TLNote: a Kyoto cuisine. Fish marinated with sweet miso]

"Well, indeed, the bathroom here is designed to accommodate multiple people at once. It is possible for everyone to take a bath together."

"That's right. So it is."

"Also, should everyone bathe by themselves, then we will have to reheat the water each time. That's just too inefficient."

"Yup yup, it is very inefficient."

"Even if we are to take a look at the past records, we can see that the opening hours for the bathroom is rather short. It seems like there were people who bathe together back then as well."

"Mhmm. Indeed."

"Therefore, well, I am generally in favor towards Kaichou's suggestion."

"Ohh. As expected of the caretaker. You are really understanding."

"However."

I stared at Kaichou,

"That is if everyone agrees to it. I somehow don't think there will be anyone who is willing to bathe together with a students' council president with the nickname of 'Predator'."

"Uhh. But, you are generally in for it, right?"

"Well yeah. There is no reason to oppose it."

We should try to stick to the operating procedures of the previous residents of the hostel as much as possible. There are more advantages to having a group of people bathing together as well.

"Well, let us hear from the others. Fuku-kaichou, what do you think?"

"I am not really against it."

Rather surprisingly, Nasuhara seemed to have agreed with that.

"Nikaido Arashi is unquestionably a beast, but she is a surprisingly level-headed person. Looking at how things are, she should not be doing anything that is reckless."

She was gracefully sucking on a piece of clam while maintaining her expressionless face - Nasuhara had put in some good words for Seito-kaichou.

Yeah, it's true, I do think Kaichou has that side to her as well. Though she is a dangerous predator, she should understand the unspoken behaviors or courtesy as demanded from her. In actual fact, even though she was surrounded by tens of lovers in the past, I had never once heard of something negative being said about Nikaido Arashi.

"I don't have anything against it either."

Ginbe said that as she cleared our dinner.

"This is a good chance for us residents to improve our relationship. I can't think of a strong reason for me to oppose it..... What does lil' sister think?"

"..... To be honest, I am not too enthusiastic about it....."

"Oh. Why is that so?"

"Because, it is quite unthinkable for Nikaido-senpai to be not doing anything in that sort of situation. Also, it is still better to take your time and enjoy your bath by yourself."

"Even though Nikaido Arashi is like that, she is still the Seito-kaichou of a famous school. You can trust the words coming out from her mouth. Also, it's not as though we have to bathe together everyday. Don't you think it is great for us to bathe together for just today?"

"It is pointless reasoning with her, Gin-Gin. She is trying to come up with all sorts of excuses, but ultimately, she just lacks confidence in her own body. Isn't that right, Himenokouji?"

"Huh!? What are you implying, Nasuhara!"

"Exactly as I have said. Since you are inferior to me in terms of three-sizes, height and even the length of our legs, you have no intention to stand side-by-side with me naked, right? You can always hide it with the clothes you wear, but you can't do that in the bathroom..... Well, that is how it is, Gin-Gin."

"That's how it is huh. Not wanting to bathe with us just because you are not confident of your own body - that's just..... Even for someone like me, who can easily be mistaken as an elementary school girl, I have never once hesitated to bare myself to everyone. You really are useless."

"What's with that, I do not have that sort of—"

"If so, please prove yourself with your actions. No matter what, you have your stand as the secretary of the students' council as well, so I do hope lil' sister can demonstrate to us your team spirit..... then again, has the nickname 'Gin-Gin' really stuck already?"

"Well, in any case, that's how it is."

As she said that, Kaichou gave a sinister smile.

"You may not be too willing, but just go along with it for today, Himenokouji. You can join us with your clothes on if you are that unwilling, and should you wish to enjoy bathing alone, you can do that after we have all left."

"Uhhhhh~..... I understand, I understand. I'll join everyone. That should be fine, right?"

"Good. That's my cute subordinate."

Kaichou gave a satisfied smile proudly.

But then again, the four girls will be enjoying themselves in the bathroom huh.

For all the fellow men in Japan, there should be no other scene that can quite make you guys as excited as that. Of course, for me, that is the case as well. I am a guy after all.

Still, that is the only period of time where the girls can enjoy a moment of rest. As a guy, all I can do is to thank the gods for allowing that sort of utopian activity to occur in the place I am living in. But whatever, I am satisfied with that.

"Alright. Let us take the bath after dinner. I remember the bath should take about thirty minutes to fill up."

"Ah, everyone, please prepare yourselves for the bath, and leave everything here to me. It should take quite some time for girls to prepare themselves for this, right? Ah, also, I will be clearing up the utensils and stuff while you girls are taking the bath."

Just as how us guys have our bromance, the girls do have their own girly world as well. I'll be in charge of doing the afterwork, so that the girls can enjoy their time in the bath comfortably - though I was planning to do that sort of thing to please them, however.

"Mmm? What are you talking about?"

Kaichou announced with a surprised expression.

I said, 'Let's all take a bath together', right? How can I leave you out by yourself? Hmm?"

***

And so, I was made to join them in their bath as well.

..... Ugh, though that is how it was written, I have absolutely no idea what I am writing, or perhaps there is something wrong with my narration. But despite how crazy and unbelievable things were, I could only accept whatever was happening in front of my eyes as the truth.

And thus, I shall say things just as they were. Also, due to my pride as a professional novelist (forgive me for my transgression), I am driven by my sense of duty to capture everything that has happened into words - I don't know if it is really due to that, or if it is actually something else.

"Fu-hyu. Ahh, the temperature's perfect."

"How incredible. It is no onsen, but somehow it really feels like it is an excellent bathhouse. Perhaps the old but excellent design of the bathroom has amplified that sort of feeling."

"..... Speaking of which, Akito has really joined us as well. Things like the atmosphere of the situation and how things develop from there, it will occasionally end up with us in a strange situation....."

"Bathing together with Onii-chan..... Bathing together with Onii-chan....."

Chapu chapu

Pisha pisha

The sounds of the water in the bathtub reached my ears, together with the words of the members of the students' council that St. Ririana Academy is proud of.

"Ahh, looking at how things are, I can only say that those bunch of

people who want to demolish this hostel are really idiots."

"So Kaichou will actually say something decent once in a while. The atmosphere of this bathroom, which is comfortable and clean at the same time..... and also its design is retro, and yet it has those modern touches at some places at the same time. Everything is just exquisite. I have heard that this hostel was originally a females-only hostel, and looking at how things are, it is not surprising. The whole building may be so, but the bathroom is filled with even more hints that emphasizes about how the past residents have been taking good care of the hostel."

"..... After seeing how you girls can calmly exchange your views about the bathroom, I can only confirm that you two are both really impressive people. Ugh, but no matter what, I had still joined in your conversation, so perhaps I am not in a position to be telling you girls about that....."

"Bathing together with Onii-chan..... Bathing together with Onii-chan....."

"Yo Himenokouji Akito. You have not said anything since just now. Are you enjoying yourself properly? This bath ain't too bad."

"H-Haa. Mmm, yeah."

Despite me answering with that, in actual fact, there was no room for me to enjoy the bath properly. If there is any guy who can answer her with 'The water's really good' without breaking a sweat, while in an

unexpected situation of being among a group of stark naked girls in the same bath, then that guy may be a male but definitely not a man. At the very least, I will never want to befriend that sort of person in my life, and I have no wish to understand them either. That is something that I can say definitely and truthfully.

"Ka ka ka, why are you that stiff? Though we are bathing together, but not only are you blindfolded, but you are wearing a swimming trunks as well. It's nothing special, right?"

"No no no no."

She had really said something really crazy.

Of course, to be honest, my interest in the opposite sex is probably slightly lower than that of your average person, and it is not like I am not aware of it as well. However, I have not yet achieved the state of enlightenment where I can be in a bath with four other girls, without having any thoughts in my mind.

Of course, it is not like things will be fine just because my eyes were blindfolded. Rather, since I was robbed of my sense of sight, my sense of hearing and smell, together with my imagination, had all sharpened as a result.

"Well, even so, considering that you were suddenly thrown into this sort of away-ground, I will have to praise you for that. Even if this is an event filled with plenty of service, most typical guys will still escape with their tail between their legs."

"Which is why, Akito is an intriguing man who is stubborn, and yet easily influenced by the general flow of things..... Then again, I am not in much of a position to talk about it, in regards to that..... Ahh, I really wish to get out of the bathtub right now."

"Oh why oh why. Why is even Gin-Gin saying that sort of feeble words? Even if you are totally naked, it is not as if our caretaker can see you anyway. Just treat him like an ornament or something."

"Kaichou is right. As of how things are now, we should enjoy the bath in a dignified manner."

"Putting Kaichou aside, even Nasuhara is saying that. That's something that is hard to comprehend."

"Ara. It is okay for you to really leave the bathroom right now, Gin-Gin. Because that means I will have one less opponent to deal with. Should any sort of service happens after you have left, you will be the only one to miss it."

"How can I leave by myself, after hearing that from you? God knows what will happen should I leave you guys alone with Akito. In for a penny, in for a pound - I do understand that idiom at the very least..... Then again, even though it is off topic, is that nickname really stuck?"

"Bathing together with Onii-chan..... Bathing together with Onii-chan....."

"Speaking of which, isn't Himenokouji-imouto acting a little strange since just now?"

"She has always been strange."

"She is muttering to herself while in a trance. It's probably that - just by bathing together with Akito, her nerves are probably close to their limits due to their state of bliss."

"Her eyes are blank too..... She is really a bro-con inside out."

"To have reached such a state, she is really disgusting."

"Mmm. We should take this opportunity to let lil' sister take another look at her relationship with Akito. This is for her own good as well."

Well well.

I was not too sure of the details as my sense of sight was taken away from me. Aside from Akiko, who was saying something that seems to be from her dreams, it seemed like everyone else was used to the situation already, surprisingly. Even Ginbe was gradually settling down after her initial embarrassment phase.

Incidentally, this out-of-the-ordinary situation was lead by Kaichou with haste, with Nasuhara applying some pressure from the sidelines. Akiko was conned by their sweet words, while me and Ginbe were dragged along by the flow of things. I don't think it was a coincidence for us two to be in the same situation, since we had just transferred to the school. But for such a crazy act to be approved so naturally - that is probably the ethos of St. Ririana Academy. Oh boy, in every sense, it is a really scary elite school.

"Speaking of which, you guys."

Kaichou changed the subject with that.

"The deliberate act of us bearing our naked selves to each other is to improve the camaraderie between us. As such, why don't we hold a small activity?"

"Haa. An activity huh."

I could not see Kaichou one bit, and yet I was still struck by the usual uneasy feeling.

"I don't have anything against the suggestion itself, but if possible,

please keep it within something that is on the tamer side. As of our current situation now, it is not something that is reassuring, from the school's point of view. Since I am the caretaker of this hostel, I hope that the activity will not be something too ridiculous."

"No worries. It is just scrubbing the back."

"Scrub? Back?"

Indeed, it is one of the long-standing activities done in the bathroom in Japan.

It fits quite well for our initial objective, and generally speaking, it is something that is healthy - putting aside the problem whether a mixed bath could be something that is considered as healthy.

"However..... it is something suggested by Kaichou....."

"There is no need to be uneasy. For a whimsical woman like me who cares about her reputation, one of the things which I hate the most is unclean things and disappointment. There is no bad intention, and I am not going to pull any tricks. I can assure you that."

Mhmm.

It is true that Nikaido Arashi's words are definitely not something to be taken lightly. Since she had already put it like that, I should just believe in her earnestly. Even if she has some tricks up her sleeves, for a person like her, there should be another chance and method for her to execute them.

"Us living together under the same roof, are stark naked in the water and scrubbing each others' back. Should we do that, our camaraderie will definitely improve, whether we want it or not."

"It is like that. But upon thinking on it deeper, isn't this activity something that will be dominated by Kaichou, as someone who can be seen as a dual-wielding swordsman in terms of sex? Everyone here is a candidate for your lover."

"If you are still feeling uneasy about me, I am fine with just you guys doing it, you know? Just like I had stressed, this is to deepen the bonds between us. It is not something that I had suggested due to my own personal desires..... However, it will be really lonely for me to watch you people doing it while I can only suck on my own thumb. If possible, I still hope you can allow me to participate."

"Oh well, since you have said it like that, then I have no choice but to believe in you. I think it is totally fine for you to participate."

"Great. Thanks."

"I'll just take it as that. How about the others? What about Nasuhara and gang?"

"I do not really mind."

That was the answer from Fuku-kaichou.

"Ignoring her usual actions and words - just this once, what Kaichou had said is absolutely correct. I cannot find a single reason to oppose it."

"Urm, really?"

"Let's not talk about that. How many times have I repeated this already, that I hope you can call me by the name 'Anna'; when will that pig brain of yours actually remember that? Should you continue to ignore my requests, I will change all your underwear in the changing room to a fundoshi." [TLNote: Fundoshi is the traditional Japanese undergarment for adult males, made from a length of cotton.]

"So you are using your favorite gag at a time like this....."

She actually said nothing back when we were thinking of nicknames. I really could not understand this girl.

"To add on, I'll apply a thick layer of mentholatum to the crotch area of the fundoshi, so please look forward to it."

"No, really, spare me from that."

What would I do should it cause some sort of weird sexual fetish to awake within me.

"Urm, what about Ginbe? Are you in agreement with that suggestion too?"

"Though not too readily."

There was a hint of sigh in my good friend's voice.

"As of this point, I will only be a joke if I continue being timid. I will try to conform to you guys as much as I can. As the saying goes: when in Rome, do as the Romans do."

"Even you are joining in as well aye....."

This friend whom I knew for a long time, is basically someone who is stubborn and hardworking. Even if she has changed from that recently, she was someone who had persuaded the lazy me countless times in the past.

Generally speaking, though she is of a European blood lineage, speaks like a boy, and has overall character that is more striking than normal, she is probably the most serious person out of everyone in this hostel.....

Thus, it is quite chilling for the nerves, to see someone like her to be gradually corrupted by the ethos of St. Ririana Academy.

"It can't be helped."

Did she read my mind or something? Ginbe continued on while laughing wryly,

"I consider myself to be someone who has common sense. However, since living with the student council members together, it feels like my 'common sense' is wrecked in an instant."

I totally agree with that.

Since transferring to this school, the students' council had given me lots of troubles. St. Ririana Academy is the most famous of all famous schools, and yet the elites of the school are actually this bunch of nutcases. Moreover, that includes my younger sister as well - I have no idea if I should be laughing or crying.

Forget it. In any case, things have already become like this.

Both Ginbe and I came from elsewhere, and we are both good friends - I hope we can continue to help each other out. The reason is simple: if the minority does not share a close relationship between themselves to fight against the outside threats together, then they will not be able to survive.

"Urm, Akiko, what about you? Do you want to join in the back scrubbing too?"

"Bathing together with Onii-chan..... Bathing together with Onii-chan....."

I passed the baton to my sister, but she was still muttering something inaudible. No response.

Judging from my rich experiences, that sound of hers is, you know, an indication of her being in her own world. Her dazed look was right there in front of me.

Mhmm, forget it, I'll just leave my sister alone for now. If I were to make her snap back to her normal self, then things may very well become even more complicated.

"Urm, then Akiko will be out. I think the rest of us will participate in the back-scrubbing."

"Alright. That took quite a while."

"Before that though, there is something that I would like to confirm."

"Hmm? What?"

"Do I need to participate in this activity as well?"

"Of course? Or rather, your participation in the activity is so important that it will not start without you."

"Ugh, but no matter what, I am still a man. It is barely acceptable for me to enter the bathroom and bathe together with the girls blindfolded. But if it comes down to coming into contact with a girl, then....."

"Why are you still worrying about insignificant things at a time like this? Isn't back-scrubbing about using a towel to scrub one's back with some force? That can't be considered as a physical contact."

"Urm, but, should I do that blindfolded, then I will not know where to scrub, right?"

"What, isn't that even better for you? You should take that opportunity to

grope some boobs - only so you can consider yourself to be an outstanding man, yeah?"

"I don't really care what you are thinking, but please do not force your values onto me, Kaichou."

"What a stubborn fella..... alright, I get it. How about this. You will not be the one doing the scrubbing, but the one receiving it. There should be no problem with that."

"Urm, even then, typically speaking, there will still be a problem, you know?"

To allow a totally naked girl to scrub your own back - that should be some services that one can enjoy only at places that are legally operated, which accept only adults.

However, things will go to nowhere if I was to voice that out. I should have the 'in for a penny, in for a pound' spirit, just like Ginbe had said. So.....

"I think there's a problem with that too."

Just as I was thinking of that, Ginbe voiced out her objection.

"I have reluctantly agreed to that only because I thought it was an all-girls thing. It is different if Akito is to participate as well. There is already plenty of problems just by having him around here. If it is going to be like that, then I will pass."

A totally correct opinion.

Or rather, I want to forcefully voice out an opinion that is similar to Ginbe's as well. However,

"Gin-Gin. That will not do, now that things have became like this."

With a dumbfounded voice, Kaichou said something that I was thinking,

"It is hard for us to come to an agreement, so giving-up halfway is not an option. Think about coordination, you know, coordination."

"Kaichou is right, but there has to be a limit to things. It is hard for me to agree with it, and it goes against my conscience and common sense."

"Haha. You are smart, and you know how to talk, so why are you so surprisingly stubborn at things like these. Should I say you are just being hairsplitting, or what....."

"It's just Gin-Gin being too innocent."

This time, even Nasuhara spoke.

"I originally thought she is quite the carnivore, seeing that she has moved here all the way from Kyoto by herself. It seems like I was just reading the book by its cover. However, it is quite understandable, should I think deeper into it, since she is still just friends with Akito, after a long period of six years."

"..... What are you implying, Nasuhara?"

"Nothing. I am just voicing out my thoughts in a straightforward manner."

"Really? But to me, it sounds like you are indirectly insulting me."

"Ara, that is a misunderstanding. Or rather, that is just the opposite. If you want to know why, it is because I am starting to think you are really cute."

"You are saying cute? That's also seeing me not as an equal, right? I cannot accept your judgement of me."

"Regardless of whether I am willing or not, cute things are just cute, there is no helping it. Strong, faithful and yet slightly immature; despite your curves being really lacking, your limbs are slender, and your waist is very thin too. Your eyes are round and big, your eyelashes are long and thin, and your hair is silver and smooth..... Ahhh, why did I not realize it earlier? Gin-Gin, you are really a girl who is unrivaled in terms of cuteness. You are cute to the point where I want to put you into my glamorous room as part of the decorations."

"..... Nasuhara. Is there something different about your character?"

"To add on, your skin is smooth as a baby's - Gin-Gin, can you allow me to touch it?"

"Wha- don't do that, it feels really uncomfortable."

"Ah, that faint expression of disgust is really cute too. Neh neh, can I hug you?"

"D-Don't say idiotic things like that. Are you actually someone who shares similar interest with Kaichou as well?"

"Ara, you have misunderstood. I just love cute things, that is all."

..... Seemed like things are taking on a strange turn. However, since I was blindfolded and not too aware of what exactly was going on, I could not find the opportunity to interrupt.

In any case, what I could understand then was: there was a new relationship developed between Nasuhara and Ginbe.

"Alright, it's about time you stop, Fuku-kaichou."

Just then, Kaichou stopped them.

"Gin-Gin is feeling really uneasy already, and we are straying too far off from the main topic. Should this continue, there will be no development to our current situation regardless of the amount of time spent."

"Ara, I am sorry. Just look at the things I have done."

"In any case, Gin-Gin. There is something that I can tell you with full certainty. I believe, upon hearing this, that uncertainty of yours will disappear in an instant - you want to hear it?"

"..... Please."

"It's something simple, really. Can you really bring yourself to watch Akito getting his back scrubbed by another woman, while all you do is to suck your thumb and watch without saying anything?"

"....."

Silence.

For a brief moment, only the sound of the flowing waters could be heard.

"..... Just this once, alright?"

Ginbe said that with a whisper which sounded like it was forced out of her mouth.

"Alright, that's my cute subordinate. That posture of you coming to a difficult decision with your shoulders trembling slightly due to your anger - to be honest, you look really charming. With that, you have shot yourself to the first position in my rankings of <<People whom I want to be lovers with>>."

"Enough of that crap, let us start immediately. How should we get about doing this, and what about the sequence?"

"Anyway is fine. This is not a competition, just an activity to increase our camaraderie. As for the sequence..... right, let's start from Gin-Gin."

"What, me first?"

"Yeah, out of respect of your difficult decision. Also, Himenokouji will get used to this sort of excitement after a while, so the first to do it will get the best perks."

"I-I am not like you guys, I am not used to things like this. For me to be the first to do it, that's a little too....."

"Why? You have came to this point already, and yet you are wimping out? Should you think of yourself as a woman, then show us how broadminded you are. Should you run away at a juncture like this, you will find yourself dumped not soon after, you know? You had worked so hard to come from a place as far as Kyoto."

"Ugh....."

Despite Ginbe sounding really conflicted, I heard a soft sigh from her soon after.

"Akito, sit on the scrubbing place."

"Ah, mmm."

I followed her instruction, and carried myself to the scrubbing place with my memories as my guide, and sat on the chair.

My legs were slightly unsteady due to me being in the hot water all this

time. Does that mean I was soaking for too long?

"Ahem. Urm, well, I'll start."

"Ahh, mhmm. Please, Ginbe."

"Needless to say, this is my first time doing this. Should there be anything that is unsatisfactory, please forgive me."

"Mhmm. I understand."

"Well then, do you have any requests when I am scrubbing your back? I wish to accommodate to you as much as possible."

"Ah-. But this is the first time I am enjoying something like this as well. I can't do it like I am at the hairdresser or the beauty salon, and just come up with a request right on the spot."

"I-Is that so. That's fine, I'll just take it that we are both equally unfamiliar about our current situation. Well then, I shall begin scrubbing now."

With that, Ginbe began her preparations.

The sound of the bucket filled up with water.

Dipping the towel into the hot water. And the sound of either soap or shower cream lathering - I am not too sure which.

And a sense of nervousness that is shooting out of control.

"Urm, then..... here I go, Akito?"

"M-Mhmm. Ah, but Ginbe, you have been soaking in the bath for quite a while already, right? Are you fine? Do you feel dizzy?"

"Ahh, I do feel slightly dazed. But no worries, it will not affect something as simple as scrubbing your back."

"Really. Mmm, that's fine."

With that, my good friend touched my back through the towel.

"..... It's broader than I have imagined. Your back."

"R-Really?"

"Mhmm. Even though you had always skipped them, Akito is still someone who was trained by the Takanomiyas. This is probably the result of that."

"Well, I did step up my efforts in the recent years, though initially when I had just arrive at the Takanomiya, I was not too serious about it..... Oh, Ginbe."

"Yes?"

"Are your hands trembling slightly?"

"Stop playing with me, they are not trembling at all. Stop talking, or else I will not be able to concentrate. Just stay quiet-"

"Ouch it hurts."

"S-Sorry! I accidentally used too much strength..... I'll be gentler....."

"No, just go with that. For it to be slightly painful..... You can say that feels just right....."

"R-Really? Then..... how about this?"

"Ah, there. Feels really great."

"Really. Then, how about this?"

"Ahhh..... Mmm, this feels good too."

"Then, this?"

"Ah— right, that's perfect. Then just continue with that-"

"..... Hyu— hyu—"

Just then.

Kaichou interrupted.

"My my, look at this, how should I put it..... right, Fuku-kaichou?"

"Yes, the atmosphere is something difficult to comment on."

"Though it is a little that..... for me to be saying this, but us onlookers are going red in the face already. And it is not due to the heat of the bathroom."

"That is right. If this is not Gin-Gin but Himenokouji-imouto, then I will bully her till she goes on her knees and begs for forgiveness. However, as Gin-Gin is very cute, I'll forgive you this once."

"W-What's with you guys? Stop beating around the bush."

Due to the external disturbances, Ginbe stopped scrubbing,

"I cannot concentrate with you two yakking in the background. Be quiet for a while."

"Oh, we are really sorry. But..... isn't that right, Fuku-kaichou?"

"Yes, I understand what Kaichou is trying to say. Anyone in our shoes will probably experience the same feelings as well."

"..... If there is something that you two wish to say, then please say it clearly. If not, then have some moderation in trying to hinder me."

"Really? Then I'll do as you wish, and say it-"

A brief pause.

Then with an extremely sissy voice,

"Gin-Gin. You sounded like you are doing this unwillingly, but there you are, putting your vigor into this. The scene of a naked, blushing girl scrubbing the back of a guy is much more erotic that I had imagined. I am honestly reflecting on it already."

"Yes, I am beginning to cower a little as well. And also, Gin-Gin, you should not have realized it, but the mood between both of you is just like a pair of newlyweds."

"Ha—!?"

There was a serious tremble from the hands at my back.

I could immediately feel Ginbe standing up,

"Please do not say idiotic things like that! Me and Akito- hyaa!?"

What followed, was an impact that came with a *thud*.

I only came to know of it later..... but Ginbe then was staggering due to

her dizziness, and she had fallen into my back. Needless to say, with my eyes blindfolded, I did not even dodge it. And due to me not expecting it or preparing myself mentally for it, thus,

"Whoa!?"

With that yell, I collapsed backwards onto the tiled floor.

Needless to say, it was together with Ginbe.

"Owwwowowow..... ah."

I opened my eyes while cringing my face due to the pain.

"..... Ah."

Ginbe was right before me.

I do not know if it was due to her still not coming into terms with our current situation, but there she was, looking down at me, while in an attire befitting of someone in a bath - she was stark naked.

And for some unknown reason, the towel covering my eyes had fallen off when we were collapsing onto the ground.

"....."

"....."

Ginbe and I were both frozen, and we continued staring at each other.

— We are good friends, and we had been together for a long time.

Even then, that will not change the fact that we are a pair of male and female. We didn't change in the same room before and after our sports

classes, and we were separated during our body checkups as well. Meaning, I have never done things with her that are easily done between men - things like 'baring ourselves to each other'.

So obviously, things like this was something of a first.

I see. Indeed, she is not tall, and her curves are not obvious. But her face is small, her limbs are slender, and both are at a perfectly balanced proportion. Her European white skin are tight and springy, causing the water droplets that were dripping onto it to bounce off. Oh boy, isn't that impressive.

..... My brain must be going wrong somewhere, for me to be calmly thinking of things like that at such a time,

"—Hyu!"

In the next instant.

From Ginbe's throat, came a voice that sounded like it was squashed. Tears appeared in her huge eyes, and her expression was contorted like that of a crushed ball of paper. Then-

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And so.

Even for an old friend like me, that was the first time I heard Ginbe's cute shriek, and with that the activity came to an end. 'In order to prevent the same incident from happening again' - due to Ginbe advocating that strongly, the rest of us agreed to be more prudent in the future.

Well, naturally so.

In fact, I had no idea how we could get that sort of activity going. Let's just treat it as a lesson so that everyone can prevent things like that from happening again in the future. Yup.

Also, there was another byproduct from this incident, that I will have to inform everyone about.

It has to do with my sister, who was satisfied just by being in the same bath as me, resulting in her not interacting with us at all. You can say that the blatant display of her extreme brother-complex was the final straw which resulted in a proposal.

"Himenokouji Akito and Himenokouji Akiko - shouldn't both of them be sleeping in different rooms?"

That was the earth-shattering proposal for her, which she found to be hard to swallow.

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 9: 13th April, PM9:00

Here's 9. Enjoy.
****

"Me and Onii-chan? Living separately?"

During the rest time after the bath, in the hostel's canteen.

After hearing the proposal from Kaichou and Nasuhara and Ginbe, my sister gave a blink as though she was listening to some foreign language.

"Urm— sorry, I don't understand what you people are talking about."

As the representative of the group, Kaichou began explaining.

"It is the same everywhere no matter which family you go to. Regardless of how good their relationship is, typically speaking, the elder brother and younger sister will not be allowed to live in the same room. Of course, there are exceptions, but those will be due to the difficulties they are facing - an example: the house is already cramped, and there are no extra rooms."

"Haa."

My sister had an expression which says she still could not understand.

"Urm, but, me and Onii-chan only have us siblings as our only remaining relatives."

"Back when the hostel is still 'Himenokouji's house', it is nothing unnatural. That's because the room you two are living in, can be considered to be like a 'house'. It's an apartment with a single room -

such situations are rare, but they still exist."

"Haa, I guess."

"Still, that is a thing of the past. Currently, this building is a standard students hostel, and not an empty apartment whose residents consist of only you siblings. It is operated by students under the supervision of the school, a place where students live together under a set of rules."

"That....."

"It is written in the rules. 'All residents will have their own room, and they will be in charge of their own living quarters'. The room is not that big, but it is still the resident's own territory, so you can't be depending on others to clean up your ass. That's how it is."

"....."

"Taking a hundred steps back, should you act like an ordinary younger sister, then it's not like we can't turn a blind eye to it. However, that does not apply for a younger sister who nearly went to heaven just by bathing together with her trunks-wearing blindfolded elder brother. Moreover, you keep openly insisting on loving your elder brother as a man. To allow you both to live in the same room under that sort of situation, that's really impossible no matter how you look at it. Should anything happens, we will not be able to explain to the school, and at that time, all of the residents of the hostel will have to bear some of the responsibility as well."

"....."

"Due to the above mentioned reasons, you should be living separately from Himenokouji Akito. Ah, don't be like that, it's not like we want you both to be separated immediately. We just wish it to be as soon as possible, alright?"

"..... That. Ugh."

She finally got a grasp of the current situation.

Akiko was originally planning to listen to what Kaichou has to say with a smiling face. However, as her expressions gradually became stranger, she was suddenly in tears.

"Eh? Urm, but me and Onii-chan have been together again only after six years and going through much difficulties, that-"

"If you are a normal younger sister, it will be fine for you to do as you wish to make up for the six years window period."

As Akiko voiced out her objection, Nasuhara pointed out coldly.

"But since that is not the case, then this is the correct judgement. I don't like you, but this is nothing personal. Everyone else will probably agree to this arrangement."

"Even then, should you insist on living together no matter what."

This time, Ginbe stood up,

"Then the only option left is for you siblings to leave the hostel. Of course, that will not solve the root of the problem. Also, since we are already fellow residents living together, it would be a shame should that happens."

She was totally isolated, without anyone to run to.

She was assaulted by waves after waves of flawless and perfectly correct arguments. Just as I thought that even Akiko will be helpless in that sort of situation,

"— H-Hmph! Even if you guys have said those sort of grandiose words, it is still far from defeating me!"

She turned the situation to her favor in an instant.

As per usual, she was smiling with an unknown source of confidence, and puffing her chest,

"Because no matter what others say, the love between me and Onii-chan is absolute. The proof is this: Onii-chan had tried all his means -though he would not tell me what those things are- in any case, he had did his best so that us siblings can living together by ourselves once again. Also, he has managed to obtain enough money for our expenses -though he would not tell me what sort of work he is doing- in any case, he has still done it. Lastly, no matter what sort of irritating attacks I did on him, he will always smile and forgive me in the end."

"..... So you are aware of yourself being irritating, huh."

"In any case, from the various evidences, the fact about me and Onii-chan being in love with each other is obvious!"

My sister continued her speech emotionally, as she ignored my subconscious tsukkomi.

"Indeed, Onii-chan has no intention of seeing me as a woman! However, it is also true that he treasures me a lot! For something as unreasonable as to force us to live separately - how can I agree to that! Yes, I absolutely can't!"

"..... Well, it's not like we are implementing it with force."

Finally, she ended off with that.

"We will still have to listen to the caretaker of this hostel, which happens to be the eldest son of the Himenokouji family. The final decision will rest in that fella's hand. That is something that everyone can agree on. Isn't that right, Himenokouji Akito?"

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And thus, with that.

In the first day where everyone from the students' council have gathered together to live in the hostel, the end of the end. It has turned into a situation where I have to decide on how to deal with the root of the problems between my sister and I.

Well, we had it coming. No, in fact, I was quite surprised that no one has mentioned it up till now.

My sister's feelings towards me was obviously beyond that of siblings love.

Should the Arisugawa or Takanomiya come to know about this, they will definitely put an expression of a demon and reprimand us brutally - though I will definitely make them fail in their attempts to do that. However, there is the fact about Akiko's lack of ethics, which is a problem that is really difficult to deal with. Things have finally boiled down to this, and it seems like it will not do if I do not come up with a definite answer.

And then.

I wish to talk about something that I have never mentioned before.

It is about the conversation of the Himenokouji family.

Just like I had mentioned earlier, for the past six years, my sister and I

have been growing up in different families.

I grew up at the Takanomiya family.

While my sister grew up at the Arisugawa family.

Also, one can probably infer from those exaggerating names, that these two noble families have quite a bit of history to them. They are still wielding a lot of influence in the current world of economy.

Of course, those two are not the only noble families around. There are still plenty of other fleeting families that I am not familiar with. Putting aside the Nasuhara family, who has only grown in strength recently, Ginbe's Sawatari family can be considered to be one as well; so does Kaichou's Nikaido family; and pardon me, but us Himenokouji family can be counted as one too.

However, for us Himenokouji, even though our status is not low, there are not too many people left who is directly affiliated to the family. Meaning to say, we are close to the state of extinction.

Then you may ask: why is a noble family like that in the danger of being without a successor - this is where my parents takes the stage, as the main reason for all of our troubles.

To conclude, regardless of my father or mother, they were both people who create lots of trouble for others.

Aside from the word 'troublesome', there is no other better way to describe them.

Of course, it is not like they were bad people. They were full of drive, they put their all in their work, and their open and innocent personalities were popular with a lot of people. Even I am one of those who like them a lot. Ignore the bad people part, you can say that they were your

textbook models of good people.

However, in this world, it is not like there are no flaws to the good people, and neither can you say that what they are doing is good all the time. Both my father and mother were your perfect examples - as a family member, they can be considered to be sinful failures.

There are two reason why I describe them as 'troublesome'.

One: they couldn't manage their own finances.

Two: they were too trusting towards others, and they had the bad habit of handling things for others to do.

As for the former, you can probably understand simply by seeing how me and Akiko were in a state where we had to depend on some other families - that is because there is not a single thing that can be considered to be a property of the Himenokouji family, despite us being a noble family.

My parents were capable and love working - since they were managing all sorts of enterprises, they should have earned quite a sizable sum of money. However, all the earnings were either donated, or distributed to fellow colleagues and workers generously, leaving us without a single penny. That's the sort of people they were.

Well, their favorite food was all sorts of instant food, so they were the type of people that requires little monetary maintenance in regards to their meals - that's what I think. Also, those who live that sort of life usually don't live long either - that's what I think as well.

As for the latter, it is easy to imagine it as well, seeing how they had dumped everything to do with the house to me, who was of a young age. Since they were earning so much, they could have just simply hired some servants for a young master like me. However, they simply threw

everything to someone who knew nothing of the world, and was one hundred percent innocent. Not just the housework, but even the education of my younger sister.

Well, it is thanks to all these, that I had learned quite a lot of things. You can say that all those things have molded me into who I am today, but that is just purely speaking in terms of the results. At least pick the right person to do this..... Urm, but, no matter what, I still maintained our house quite impressively, so perhaps you can say that my parents had quite the foresight. In actual fact, the enterprises managed by them were actually operating really smoothly as well.

To conclude.

There is one thing that I can say for certain. That is, my parents were unique people, and at the same time, you can say that they were eccentric people.

In another words, they were your soldiers of fortune.

Being born in the noble families where everyone places emphasis on tradition, their existence were viewed as a sort of aberration. In fact, their abnormality was frequently viewed as the source of cancer for the family.

The pair of cancer cells were very similar, and they were so close, their mutual understanding were so impressive, they were like puzzle pieces that fit just nicely. Therefore, the trouble and benefits caused by the two had an unexceptional influence to their surroundings as well. Even so, there was no unanimous conclusion reached, as to whether those things can be considered to be lucky or otherwise for the duo in question.

..... And with that, we have finally reached the main topic.

This was something that happened back when my parents are still alive.

"Neh father. Can I ask something?"

On that day, it was the rare occasion (and it's really rare) where both of my parents were at home.

And I finally managed to had the chance to ask a question which had been bugging me for quite a while.

"Mmm? What's up, Akito?"

"It's about Akiko and me. Could it be that we are not real siblings?"

"Oh."

My father shifted his line of sight off the novel which he was reading, and smiled at me,

"Why do you think so?"

"If you ask why, it's just a feeling I have."

"Is that so? But that doesn't seem to be the case to me. In my eyes, it must be on a certain basis for you to be saying that."

Since I was pointed out, I might as well come clean.

"Mmm- actually, it's when I was chatting with my friends."

"Oh."

"Then we talked about sisters."

"Mhmm."

"Everyone was saying things like, 'elder and younger sisters are really irritating', or 'or rather, they are really disgusting', or 'I really can't see them as girls'. Due to those words, I thought the relationships between them and their sisters are poor, but that does not seem to be the case. Rather, they are still getting along as siblings."

"I see, I see."

"But as for me, I find Akiko really cute. It's not about liking or disliking her, I just see her as an ordinary girl. At the very least, I have never once seen her as disgusting or irritating. So it just feels very weird. If that is the case, then there is either something wrong with my brain, or that me and Akiko are not blood-related siblings."

"Really-. Mhmm."

My father crossed his arms as he said that. After a while, he nodded,

"Oi— Mummy—. Come here for a second."

"Coming coming. What's wrong, Daddy?"

"Mmm. Seems like Akito has found out."

"Ara ara. Oh my."

My mother was making pastry in the kitchen, and she walked out while hugging on to the egg beater and the bowl,

"It's exposed?"

"Mmm. Exposed."

"Did Daddy leak it by accident?"

"No no. Akito found out by himself."

"Ara ara. I see."

..... Looking at the conversation between my parents, my only thought was 'wow, they're taking it real easy'. Me and Akiko are brought up as twins, but in reality we are not real siblings - that should be a huge problem that affects the basic foundations of the Himenokouji family, and it should be kept in absolute secret from the outsiders. They were being way too relaxed, even though the secret's out already.

"Well, it's because initially, we had never imagined such a thing to happen."

While looking at the dumbfounded me, my father said laughingly,

"Moreover, it is not like I can cover it up, with you looking at me so seriously. And, it is something that I will have to reveal someday, anyway."

"Ahh..... is that so."

"Then again, the same goes to you, Akito. You have came to know of such a shocking truth, and yet you are still so calm and collected. You are not in a position to say anything to Daddy and Mummy."

"Well, yeah."

In actual fact, I am quite certain about this fact. Rather than saying that I was questioning them, you can think of it as me confirming the fact with them - that's how it really should be. Also, I was already used to my parents' eccentricity.

"Even then, it's still surprising that you have realized it."

This time, it was mother's turn to sigh, as she continued to whip the egg-whites,

"We have obtained full assistance from our gynecologist, and we have done plenty of stuff to our family register as well. We have also done lots of things in many other areas. There is actually no one, not even our close relatives, who has realized anything."

Though she was speaking to me in a light fluttery manner, things are still getting really troublesome, no matter how you look at it. Any wrong step will probably end up with a trip to prison, resulting in huge problems for the people around us. Then again, this is not something that can be done easily just because you want to. Tweaking the family register is of a totally different level from changing the stage name or the pen name.

"No no Mummy, we should be saying, it is as expected from Akito. Our small tricks are nothing more than child's play in Akito's eyes. Ah, I had expected you to find out someday, but I never thought it will be this soon."

"Yeah. Akito is a really smart and dependable child. He has done things like cooking and cleaning without any complains, and has also taken good care of Akiko as well. Without you, we will not be able to concentrate on our work. Really, we can't thank you enough."

..... Well, that's exactly how those two will say out their inner thoughts.

Even so, it will not makes one feel uncomfortable, or that they are overdoing with the praises - in regards to that aspect, they were surprisingly well calculated. Or you can say, that their nickname '*Man-eater* Himenokouji' used by some people was really fitting for them.

As a saying goes: with enough praises, even pigs can climb the trees. But in the case of my parents, forget about trees - they probably can even fly..... In any case, they were good at spotting the capabilities of a

person, and developed them to their fullest. You can barely say that the reason for me to be quite independent for my age, is in no small part due to the influence of my parents.

"Ah. Incidentally, the one who is not blood-related is you."

"Eh?"

I was speechless, while facing my father who continued to be blunt without much of a care.

"..... Don't you think, it's just a little too casual? It should be a really heavy topic for me, you know."

"Even though you put it like that, but at a time like this, there is no point in hiding anymore. There's not much meaning in telling you all these while being all emotional and crying, right?"

Whatever, he's right too.

It was pointless, and there was no other option. Most importantly, that's how my father was.

"Also, even if you are not blood-related to us, you are still our son. Or perhaps you are thinking stupid things like, just because you are not blood-related to us, you are not our child anymore?"

"..... No. Definitely not."

It was because I had already came up with that conclusion, that I chose to bring up the topic in the first place.

"Speaking of which, you have mentioned that you both have did somethings to the family register, right?"

"Mmm. So I did."

"Why do you have to do that deliberately? Since you are planning to tell me anyway, it should be fine even if you did not do that."

"Mmm. There's lots of reasons for that. Himenokouji is a really troublesome family."

With that said, my father scratched his head with a perplexed look.

At then, I did not realize just how troublesome the problems of Himenokouji family are in reality. I had only came to realize that after I was separated from Akiko, and moved into a noble family while in an isolated state. But I'll just leave these things for next time, should there be a chance for me to do so.

"Well then Akito. Though we are not blood-related, you are still the son of me and your mother. There are a few things that we would like to request of you."

"Request? Me?"

"Firstly, we hope you can keep this a secret."

"Mmm. Well, that's what I am planning to do anyway."

"That includes Akiko too, you know?"

"Even Akiko? Ugh- urm, this is..... It feels slightly mean, for only the lass from the family to be kept in the dark."

"Well, she is someone who will become really troublesome should she come to know about the truth. It is best to keep it a secret from her as well."

With that, my father shrugged.

"There are less than ten people in this world who know about this. Well, the number has reached the threshold for keeping it as a secret. Should the information spreads even further, then it will be out of the domains where Daddy and Mummy can control."

"But, no matter what, it will be revealed someday, right? Didn't I realize it myself too?"

"You can put it that way, since you are the person in question. It is not strange for you to feel like there is something off in the relationship between you and Akiko. But like I had said, that was accounted for right from the beginning."

"Even then, wouldn't a simple DNA test reveal everything?"

"Mmm, so it will. That's why Daddy and Mummy have actually put in a lot of effort, and put on a lot of show, in an attempt to cover it up."

Both siblings' name begin with the character <秋 (aki)>, in order for everyone to have the concept that "Himenokouji Akito and Himenokouji Akiko are twin siblings'. It has already penetrated deep into their consciousness — my father explained cheerfully.

"To add on, your blood-type is the same as Akiko's, and your faces look alike. It will be bad should people think, 'this pair of siblings do not look the same at all'. We can only consider ourselves to be really lucky for the appearance of such favorable conditions, thus typically speaking, no one will get suspicious of it. The first impressions are really strong and long-lasting."

"..... Well, I understand all that. But still, don't you think it is better to let Akiko know?"

"You are really harping on that."

"Because it feels really bad. Since I found out about it myself, then won't it be the same for Akiko in the future? Therefore, I am thinking, wouldn't it be better for her to just tell her right now?"

"Nah, I don't think she will be hurt. Rather, she will be jumping with joy."

" ? Is that so?"

"Forget it, let's not talk about that for now."

My father brushed it off vaguely,

"It's fine with Akiko. As long as no one tells her, that lass will never realize it herself."

"Why?"

"Well, the first impression thing we had talked about earlier - it has already entrenched itself deeply in Akiko's mind. We had instilled that into her since she's a baby, and we have done it quite thoroughly. So much so that should the time comes when the lass realized this by herself, everyone in the world would have know of it by then. Well, we can't put the possibility to zero, but you can say the chances are so small, we can pretty much ignore it."

"..... Since father has put it like that, then it means that should it be found out, then there will probably be someway to deal with it. That's what you think, right?"

"Yeah, that's how it is."

With that, my father and mother exchanged looks briefly.

They looked really happy.

"..... What's up? Both of you seemed really happy."

"Do you have to ask. It's obviously because we are happy about how our son is growing up."

My father's smile became even brighter,

"You are not shaken despite things turning out to be like this. Or rather, despite being shaken, you have managed to control yourself so that it will not show on your expressions. That is not something that can be easily done. And you have placed me, Mummy and Akiko under consideration first before yourself, right? Daddy is really happy at how gentle you are."

"It is useless saying all that, you know? Whenever father praises someone like that, it means that you definitely have something bad up your sleeves."

"Hey hey, don't doubt people like that. I am in full praise of you, and I am about to request the second thing of you too, but these two things have no relation to each other, alright?"

"Yeah yeah..... And? What's the second thing?"

"Mmm. I hope you can protect Akiko."

"Mmm. Understood."

I agreed immediately.

"I'll protect Akiko. That lass is my precious little sister, so even without the request from father, I will still protect her. No matter what that lass

will become, no matter who she pissed off, I will always protect her. That has nothing to do with us not being blood-related. I will definitely protect her."

"..... How very dependable."

My father narrowed his eyes.

As though he had seen the bright rays of the morning sun rising from behind my back.

"I am proud of you, Akito. Me and your mother have already fulfilled our goals in life, and are able to puff our chest proudly, just because we have raised you up well. It is really great that you have became our son."

"Mmm. Mmm."

"And also, this is the only thing that you are not to forget, alright? Since the day you are born till now, you have always been me and your mother's son, for each and every passing second. Of course, you are still our son from now on, till forever. This is the only thing which I hope you can remember, no matter what may happen."

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— Like that.

That is the small episode between my parents and I, where it was revealed that I am not blood-related with my younger sister.

What happened to my parents later, and why do Akiko and I have to be sent to live at different families -I'll explain those things should I get the chance to do so in the future.

The problem right now is, in regards to the action that I should take

about our current situation.

Night was slowly falling onto the canteen of St. Ririana Academy's students hostel.

Someone proposed me and Akiko should stay in different rooms, and the final decision had fallen into my hands. In a situation like that, what sort of answer should I give?

"Uuhhh..... Onii-chan?"

My sister stared at me, as though I was the final straw that could save her.

Kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe were all looking at me with varying expressions, while waiting for my answer.

"..... Hmm."

I closed my eyes, and thought for a while.

I remembered the promised which I had made, as mentioned in my recount.

'No matter what happens, I will always protect Akiko', that.

Even though I had said all those things, I still love my parents a lot, and respect them more than anyone else. I had confidently and uprightly sworn before their very eyes.

Of course, that determination of mine has never once shaken. Even now.

Doing my all to get my sister back to my side is one of the proof of that. If it is not because of me treasuring her a lot, and if I do not carry out my oath with a firm determination, it will be impossible to accomplish this

feat - I can say that proudly.

And what drives the not-too-diligent and not-too-capable me, what wills me to overcome all odds to obtain this victory, is the wish of 'being together with my younger sister once again'. That is the obvious truth.

The proposal and my wish are in conflict with each other.

Or you can say, it will cause my six-years worth of effort to be all for naught.

Also, take a look at the person who was directly involved in this.

My younger sister was staring at me with teary eyes, as though she was watching her savior descending from the sky.

That expressions that says she was uneasy and afraid, yet at the same time, she had absolute trust in me.

(..... Well, there's nothing to fret about.)

I could not help but gave a snicker.

Because, as a person, and as a man. No, as the son of my parents.

It is natural for me to keep my promise. That is not something I should be agonizing at, or be at a lost on what to do.

"I understand everyone's opinions."

Opening my eyes, I gave a smile.

Then, without any doubt or regrets, and with an enlightened feeling.

No, you can even say that I said my conclusion with pride.

"I'll live separately from Akiko. I hope to move all the stuff by tonight, so everyone, please help me out. Alright?"

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 10: 14th April, AM2:00

And here's chapter 10. Hopefully, I can get the last chapter out by this weekend.

Looking forward to be entertained by the comments. Enjoy.
****

Of course, things were not that simple.

"What do you mean by this!"

"Onii-chan you traitor! I am wrong about you!"

"We could finally be together again after much difficulties, and yet you are giving this up by yourself, how unbelievable! I totally cannot understand what Onii-chan is thinking!"

"Akiko is furious! I have never been this angry ever since I was born! My anger can cause Mt. Fuji to erupt already!"

"If so, I will never put on a nice expression in front of you for the rest of my life! And I will never make Onii-chan's favorite dishes, nor will I wash Onii-chan's underwear! In short, I will not do anything for Onii-

chan anymore! Our relationship between us siblings ends here! Are you fine with that?"

"Ah, ah, sorry, that's all a lie, I've said too much. Those words are just rhetorical, I don't really mean it that way. I wish to get along well with Onii-chan forever. Yes, of course, it is definitely like that."

"..... Do we really have to live separately? It is still not too late for you to be regretting? You will definitely regret about ignoring your cute little sister later, you know?"

"Uwaaaaaaa! Onii-chan is an idiot! Meanie! That's enough, I don't care about you anymore! Uwaaaa!"

..... etc.

In general, my sister vehemently opposed to it.

In the end, she was there standing in the caretaker's room with the intention of resisting all the way, but I used something called the authority of an elder brother, and made her surrender.

And thus, it was two in the morning at the next day.

The surprise moving operation which all residents participated in, except for my younger sister, had just ended.

Kaichou, Nasuhara and Ginbe had all returned back to their rooms, while I was there by my lonesome in the deserted caretaker's room.

"..... Somehow, this apartment looks pretty spacious."

This apartment was designed such that the caretaker of the hostel can stay in here together with his whole family. It felt slightly cramped back when I lived here together with my sister, but right now, it seemed rather

huge.

"Mmm. Things are going to get pretty lonely here. Mmm."

Ever since moving in here during the early summer, I am with my sister all the time for nearly 24/7. Something just feels not right, and the feeling was a hundred times worse then that of walking around with just a single shoe on. The feeling has been lingering around me since just now.

"Ahh, I see, this is the so called sense of emptiness."

Along with the term that I would not mention typically, I pushed out all of my feelings with a sigh.

My current feelings were comparable to that six years ago when I was forced to separate from my sister - though it had not quite reached that state yet, but the mental blow which I had received was probably something that is just a step away from that. Oh well, I can't quite retort if someone is to tell me 'that is just you exaggerating things'. No matter what, my sister is in a room just ten meters away from me.

"Alright, it's about time I sleep."

The rest day was already over, and lessons will start in about six hours time. I originally hoped to work a little on my novel if possible, but I was no longer in the mood to do so. All I could do now is to sleep.

Perhaps my feelings will change once I wake up.

"Since I have already decided, let's brush my teeth then....."

I walked to the sink with a yawn, and as I stretched out my arms to take my toothbrush,

"Eh?"

I saw it.

In the cup that was on the shelf, held two toothbrushes.

Obviously, they were not for my use only.

"If I put two toothbrushes into a single cup like this, it will feel like we are a pair of couples that have just started dating. Ehehe."

My sister said that as she placed the toothbrushes into the cup. Meaning to say, she had forgotten it there.

"It's because it was really chaotic while we are moving the things..... though I was expecting some things to be forgotten in the process."

But a toothbrush huh. It will not really matter if the things left behind are things that are not commonly used, or not too important, but I couldn't allow her to sleep without brushing her teeth. Can't help it, I'll just deliver it to my sister's room. Not to mention, I wish to check on how that lass is feeling right now.

I walked by the corridor in the middle of the night, towards my sister's room.

And gently knocked on the slightly old but still very sturdy door.

"Oi-. Akiko~"

No response.

Another knock.

"You have forgotten something, you know? Toothbrush. You need it."

No response.

..... Ugh, mmm.

Did I really make her furious this time around? Normally, even if she was sleeping soundly, or if she was a kilometer away from me, she would definitely reply me energetically with a wide smile when I called her-

As I thought of that, I subconsciously placed my hands on the door, and the door opened just like that.

Hmm, that Akiko.

I told her since young, to remember to shut the doors and windows tight. I will have to discipline her properly for this.

"Oi Akiko. The door's not locked, you know? What are you going to do should Kaichou strikes in the middle of the night-"

I could not continue my words.

It is a space that is much smaller than the caretaker's room.

Though it is well constructed, there are still tiny problems all over the six-tatami sized room.

My sister was lying on the table, breathing steadily and quietly.

"..... You should sleep in your futon - I have reminded you countless times already, yeah?"

A sigh accompanied my wry laughter.

If it was during the normal times, I would definitely preach her, and would not forgive her until I am satisfied with bullying her. Forget it, I'll just pretend I never see it this time. I no longer had the mood to do so, after seeing the dried up tears at the corners of her eyes.

"Here. At the very least, put this on."

I put the woolen blanket onto her shoulders, and gently patted her head.

Despite my sister twitching her body to what was probably due to an itch, there was no signs of her waking up.

(A leopard will never change its spots - that's how it is said, right? There are no signs of improvement to this lass' brother-complex.)

I had said it plenty of times already, but the reason for me living separately from my sister, and the reason for allowing the members of the students' council to move in here, is because the most important thing right now is to cure my sister of her brother-complex.

Akiko has grown into a lady who will not embarrass herself in all sorts of situation, but should she reveals her true nature while living with me, then she will be opening an opportunity for the Takanomiya or the Arisugawa to strike. All her reputation and status which she had accumulated, will disappear in a flash as well. The most problematic thing is, it seems like she does not give a damn to her reputation and status which she had painstakingly accumulated. She will throw them away without any hesitation in an instant, should the situation requires her to do so.

Well, that sort of straightforwardness, or you can say foolishness, is indeed one of her plus points. If possible, I wish to respect her decision as much as possible.

(But it looks like the days where we live together in the same room will

end right here.)

It is for the best for us to live separately for now. I do wish to live together, but we can't do that right now.

Ahh, that's right.

Ginbe, you are right.

The things you had pointed out and worried about back in the past, they are all absolutely true. As expected from my good friend whom I have been with for years.

Yes, it's exactly as you had said. But that is to be expected, naturally.

After being separated for six years and reuniting again once more, my sister has became so pretty she looks like a totally different person.

And she was openly displaying her affection towards me.

And I know that there is no blood-relation between us.

O— K—, I admit.

To be honest, I have zero confidence of maintaining
my rationality should we continue on with our current situation.

Therefore, I have no choice but to keep a distance away from her.

This is a suggestion targeted towards my sister's brother-complex, which is proposed by the fellow members of the students' council - that is the other reason as well.

But the crux of everything is so as not to turn my promise I've made to my parents, into nothing but empty words. 'No matter what happens, I

will always protect Akiko' - I have no choice but to go all out and remove all factors that are of danger to her.

Even if that factor is me.

Or even if that is not what my sister has wished for.

(..... Oh boy. I am in a position that is filled with difficulties as well.)

The six years is really far too long.

Regardless for me or my sister, that period of time has allowed the platform where we see each other as members of the opposite sex to form completely. Indeed, I had viewed Himenokouji Akiko as a member of the opposite sex in the past, but that is just me looking at her as my younger sister, and nothing more.

Therefore, I have no intention of revealing the point of us not being blood-related to my younger sister.

Should she come to know of the truth, my younger sister will probably go ecstatic, and launch even more aggressive attacks on me. Since she still thinks of me as her blood-related brother, it will probably work as some sort of restriction on her, even if we are talking about the world champion bro-con here. Should that barrier be removed, I guess it will be obvious what the outcome will be.

Then again that lass has the bad habit of just being all talk (like what happened earlier on today while we were cleaning the bathroom), so perhaps in actual fact things may not get too chaotic. But if she tries to charm me even more aggressively then she is doing now, then I really do not have the confidence to..... no, sorry, really.

In any case, my policy will not change.

I'll continue to do the things that is needed from me as an elder brother, and I will do what I think is for the best. This is something that will never change.

— I once again engraved that determination into my heart, and gently patted her head yet again.

As she will definitely ask for more once I do that, I have never once did it to her no matter how much she begged..... But it is an exception when she is asleep.

I have made her cried a lot today, so such levels of service should be fine.

Pat pat.

Pat pat.

In order not to wake her up, I did so gently and diligently. I stroked her hair again and again, as if to affirm the touch of my sister's hair.

To put it cornily, her bright and lustrous black hair is just like silk. It's to the point where I think she can just feed herself for the rest of her life just by being the model for shampoos or conditioners in advertisements.

The skin on her face is spotlessly white, and smooth like a baby's.

Her facial features need no further praise from me. Even her eyelashes on her closed eyelids are long and thin, totally ignoring the need of

mascara.

Ahh, damn.

If she is not my younger sister, I will definitely commit something wrong.

Of course, I cannot imagine Akiko as someone who is not my younger sister, and I think it is precisely because we are brought up as siblings, that such feelings exists in me today.

Ahh, what a shame.

Really, it's to the point where I am grinding my teeth in frustration.

.....

.....

.....

Forget it, there's no point in me staring into blank space at here. It would be bad if I stayed around for too long and she woke up. We have to know when to stop.

"Well then. I'll go back to sleep too."

With that said, I left my sister's side.

As I crept out of the room,

"Impossible——————————!"

My sister who was supposed to be asleep suddenly sprang up.

"Impossible impossible, totally impossible! To have made it this far and yet walk away doing nothing, it's as impossible as 1+1=0! Onii-chan, aren't you ashamed of yourself as a man!?"

"..... You, are awake.....?"

"You had finally patted my head after six years! Yo— things will definitely proceed on with the mood this time round; kyaa— what should I do, I am not mentally prepared, but my body is raring to go anytime - I was waiting while thinking of all these things with my thumping heartbeats! But I never thought you will actually back out at the critical moment!"

My sister rattled on like a machine gun, while ignoring me, whose eyes were getting wide.

"It's food that is served right before you! Eat as you wish, do as you please!? Your cute little sister is actually sleeping there defenselessly, so why doesn't Onii-chan even give me a kiss! Is it because of your religion!?"

"Urm, I don't believe in any religion..... Look, Akiko. Are you trying to trick me by pretending to be asleep?"

"Yes!"

My sister nodded her head with force, without any sense of guilt.

"Due to the actions of my heartless Onii-chan, I've cried buckets of tears! Believing that Onii-chan will definitely come to console me, I was on *standby* all day! Lying on the table, just like that!"

"..... Can't you just shift those efforts of yours into something else instead?"

"All my efforts are so that I can gain Onii-chan's affection!"

"Typically speaking, that is not something that you can say without any hesitation."

"No, I can say so without any hesitation! Because everything in my life revolves around Onii-chan! And there is no need to care about what the normal situation is! Humans are at their happiest when they live the life they want to live!"

"Though what you are saying do make some sense, you have to look at the situation you are in before you speak....."

"Who cares about those things, anything is fine!"

My sister closed in on me aggressively.

"I was finally patted on the head. I was so happy I nearly got into a dance, but I still held on, and continued to pretend to be asleep after much difficulty! Me forgetting my toothbrush that is a deliberate ploy so that I can get Onii-chan into my room! Akiko violently objects to the way Onii-chan tramples on all my efforts!"

"So that toothbrush was deliberate huh....."

What a petty ploy it is.

Then again, I was in no position to speak, due to me being fooled by it totally.

"Well, just forget it, nothing bad has happened, right? You have your head patted by me due to your ploy working successfully. Not to mention, I have patted your head really thoroughly and for a long time, right?"

"No, can't do! That is not enough! Onii-chan has done a lot of horrible things to me today, so I will have to grab on to this chance and make Onii-chan apologize and pay for his crimes!"

"Tell me more specifically then. What exactly do you want me to do?"

"Do you even have to ask! Today, right now, you have to go against all odds and welcome our very first night together with me!"

"Ahaha, what an interesting joke. Do you want me to write a letter of recommendation to Kyoto Manzai Association?"

"I am absolutely serious! Look here - I am even done with laying out the futons!"

"Ahaha, good good. Saying those ridiculous claims in a very serious expression is a way to be funny as well."

"So I say, I am not trying to be funny!"

"Ahh- it's really funny. Since I am having such a good laugh before sleeping, it looks like I can sleep soundly tonight. Thank you, Akiko, and good night."

"Wait! Please wait! At least a good-night kiss!"

"No way."

"I won't ask for a kiss on the lips. Just the forehead will do!"

"I can't do things that cannot be done."

"W-Well then, just do it one more time! Please pat me on the head once more!"

"Didn't I just do enough of that. You'll go bald if I continue patting."

"Uhhhh~! I understand. Then at the very least, say something to your cute little sister before you leave the room!"

"Mmm. I love you the most in this world. Akiko, you are the only one I love."

"Uhiii! Why do you just love to give such services at moments like this! Didn't I say it many times already, I am weakest to sudden attacks like this!"

"Ahaha."

..... And so, with that.

It had nothing to do with blood-relations.

My younger sister and I were very energetic, and very blissful today - like that. We'll end here for now.

[Onii-Ai v3] Chapter 11: 14th April, AM6:00

So I got my TW translated Onii-ai vol 1. They are giving out posters of either Akiko, Anna or Nikaido as a promotion, but you have to be physically there at the event areas to claim it. God damn it hurts. Why can't they just bundle the shit up together? I was looking forward to seeing Anna in my room.

The whole volume's done. Thanks to Alice and Merc as usual. Enjoy.
****

And so the next morning.

I am already living separately from my sister, but even then the people of Himenokouji family still wakes up early as usual. We had messed about till late night, and although I still want to sleep until I am satisfied, my body still woke up by itself.

"Ugh- mmm..... but I still feel like sleeping-"

I rose up from the bed with a yawn, and began preparing for the morning. There will be lessons on later, so even if I want to go back to sleep, I'll have only an hour left to do so. Akiko and Ginbe should be awake already in order to prepare breakfast, so it will not do if I am the only one lazing around.

Right, I'll work on my script while waiting for breakfast. If so, I can say without guilt that I have not wasted any time.

Thus, I washed up and changed quickly, and made a cup of tea for myself. Just as I was heading towards the table.

I saw someone in the courtyard via my bedroom windows.

Red ponytail and black eye-patch. That's Nikaido Arashi, the perverted students' council president whom everyone is familiar with.

"Heh. Her morning practice huh?"

She was holding on to a wooden sword instead of the usual Japanese sword. She was in a hakama, something that is rarely seen of her, and standing in position. [TLNote: Hakama (袴) are a type of traditional Japanese clothing. They were originally worn only by men, but today they are worn by both sexes. Wiki it if interested.]

I could not see her expressions from the place I was at..... but her back looked surprisingly slender, and her perfectly relaxed and yet serious posture reminds one of the calm before an incoming storm.

..... Mmm.

Change of plans.

Chances like this don't come every day, so let me take a look at Kaichou's skills.

I looked at her as I tried my hardest to avoid being detected by her, and waited for quite a while.

Kaichou started off her training slow.

The first strike went for the eyes, followed by the front, forearm, waist, and a thrust.

Then it started from the forearm, followed by the face, the sides of the face, and the sides of the waist.

Your standard practice that follows the basics down to the dot.

..... Hmm.

That's rather surprising.

As a whole, Nikaido Arashi is someone very uninhibited and open. She's the sort of person to ignore details, and deals with everything with a laugh. I originally thought her swordplay will be something similar to her personality, but it looks like I had guessed wrong.

Kaichou's swordplay is very exquisite and rational. There are absolutely no tricks, nor are there any unreasonable moves. Seems like those are

your true battle techniques through and through.

Ah well, I may not sound convincing as a kendo novice, but even from the eyes of a novice, her steps and body movements were really impressive as well. As expected from the students' council president of St. Ririana Academy - even if she is sloppy with her fashion sense and demeanor, she's still solid on the inside.

(Then again..... to be honest, it is slightly boring.)

As her basics are excellent, I could easily catch a glimpse of her real strength just from her basics training. However, those are not really things worth spending time to look at. I can easily see practices of people swinging their swords at just about anywhere, so-

Just as I was thinking of that.

Unknowingly, and suddenly. Kaichou's aura changed.

A hallucination of her back suddenly increasing many times in size. She twisted her legs nimbly, turned her waist, and spun her body around with her foot acting as a fulcrum as though she wanted to drill out the soil beneath her.

With that, she slashed her wooden blade horizontally with a murderous intent.

Towards me.

"_____!?"

I'm dead meat, I thought to myself.

I thought I was sliced into two.

Obviously that was just my hallucination. There were the walls of the hostel between us; even though it is a little old, but the thick window glass was there as well; and most importantly, she was physically more than ten meters away from me. She would not be able to slash me unless her sword can extend and retract like a drying pole, or she can use some sort of magic. Not to mention, Kaichou was just holding on to a wooden sword.

I do know all those things very well, but still. I really thought I was dead. That's how penetrative that slash was, and more importantly, how sharp that killing intent of hers was.

"Yo. Morning, my lover number 4."

While maintaining the pose of her slash, Kaichou looked at me and smiled.

"Your interest in peeking at fine ladies like me is really disturbing. I am fine with you watching me practice, but do you mind informing me first?"

"..... Sorry. That was not my intention."

"Since you are peeking, you might as well peek at me changing. But should you really do that, I'll go along with the mood and push you down. Then you will really become my lover number 4 who is worthy of the name."

"I see, but no thanks. I'll follow your advise, and will never get close to Kaichou's room from now on."

"Ka ka ka. You sure don't mince your words, as usual."

After a laugh, Kaichou finally relaxed her posture,

"So, how's it? My practice."

"Regarding that, it is very impressive, to be honest. You walking about with that huge sword is really not just for show."

"Really? But wasn't that boring? I tried to tease you slightly after seeing you coming close to yawning just now."

"..... Please do not release your murderous intents jokingly."

It's slightly too stimulating as a cup of wake-up coffee.

Incidentally, Kaichou should have her back facing me. No, prior to that, when did she detect my presence? I was already carefully hiding my own presence back then.

"Ah, but you are really strong. I'll have to reconsider the way I look at Kaichou."

"Eh. That's something to be happy about."

"I am not licking your boots. You were really impressive. I thought I was nearly chopped apart by that horizontal slash of yours."

"I see, I see. That's great. Since you are redoing the way you look at me, why don't you do a confession along the way. I can have the extravagant joy of enjoying outdoor sex early in the morning as well."

"It should be about time you have some self-awareness, about how your ratings will drop each time you say things like that."

"Kakaka, can't be helped. What will be left of me, without my sexual drive."

As she said such sorrowful things without giving much of a damn,

Kaichou walked towards me,

"Well, you don't really have to worry."

" ? About what?"

"About your sister."

Kaichou closed one of her eyes while wiping off the sweat on her forehead.

"We barged into what is supposed to be the hostel which should only be occupied by you both, and forced her to live apart from her elder brother. Well, originally, it would not be strange should she fall sick due to the shock she had received. That girl's brother-complex is not something to joke around with."

"Yeah, indeed."

"However, this is actually Himenokouji Akiko's biggest strength. Generally speaking, that girl is always very optimistic, and she will simply stand up again. Even if that lass meets a 'it never rains but it pours'-situation, such as her dropping her wallet, then having her empty house broken into by a thief, she will still emerge with a smile. Should I say she is surprisingly tenacious or..... in any case, she is very impressive."

"Yeah, I think the same too."

I absolutely agree.

That lass will never forget her smile no matter what she is facing. She is probably the girl who is most unsuited to put on a crying face in this world.

"You do know that girl is someone popular enough to gun for the first prize in the school's beauty contest, but that is not due to her being smart or looking gorgeous. The most important factor is the effects brought about by her personality. In a way, even an explosive situation will be alleviated just with her mere presence alone."

"Yeah. Akiko's smile is something that will render things like quarrels and wars pointless."

"Yup. That girl is probably born to be a mediator for United Nations or something. She will probably be able to accomplish her mission no matter which place she is sent to."

I did not know if it was due to her imagining the scene, but Kaichou gave a throaty "kukuku" laugh,

"That's the reason for me wanting her in the students' council. The students in our school are all outstanding, but some of them can have a very strong personality. A lubricant like Himenokouji Akiko is essential to gel all those people together. No, I really treat her as my precious."

..... Hmm.

I have never once doubted on how outstanding my sister is. However, I am really proud as her brother, to hear Kaichou acknowledging her.

Then again, I do not really have the chance to understand the sort of position Akiko is in at school..... though I should know soon enough. As her elder brother, and as her guardian, it will not do if I do not know about her situation.

"But Himenokouji Akiko is a really unique talent. That naive innocence of hers has reached a state where I do not know how to handle her. I am really envious about that."

"Eh? Kaichou thinks of it that way?"

"Surprised?"

"Mmm, yeah. A little."

"All humans will always be envious of the things that others have and they don't. I don't think there are a lot of areas where I lose to others, but my '*man-eater*' techniques is something incomparable to Himenokouji Akiko's. That girl has the ability to get close to anyone unknowingly, no matter how cautious the person is. And because it is hundred-percent natural, it becomes something hard to deal with."

What a coincidence. Kaichou had used a familiar term.

Man-eater.

A term that is commonly used when describing my parents.

Perhaps that description of hers is really fitting.

Akiko is very similar to our parents. Since she is their real birth daughter, unlike me, that is something to be expected..... But even if it is natural for them to be similar in looks, she has also strangely inherited their personalities like how energetic they were, how they can get close to others, and how they can be very honest to people whom they trust.

"Your father and mother had some things in similar, right?"

She couldn't have realized what I was thinking. Kaichou shrugged and gave a faint wry smile,

"I've heard about it. The unfilial son of the Himenokouji - despite being in a position akin to the leader in what is named as <The Royal Ten>, a group of noble families, he had never once put in effort into ensuring the

survival of his family line. There's only you siblings left who are qualified to use the surname 'Himenokouji', right?"

"Yes. Something like that."

Well, it's normal for her to know such levels of information.

The Nikaido family which Kaichou is from would probably has some sort of relations with The Royal Ten. It's nothing strange for her to hear many things about Himenokouji family.

Even so, this is a topic that I do not wish to touch on. Should thing go on deeper, I'll just brush it off with a laugh-

"Ah, it's fine, I have no intention of pursuing deeper."

However, Kaichou shook her head with a hearty laugh.

"It's not something I am interested in, and more importantly, I'll be troubling you should I continue delving into the issue. Moreover, I am in approval of what your parents have done."

"Haa. Is that so?"

"Of course. Isn't it obvious, looking at my personality?"

"Mmm, indeed so. What Kaichou is interested in are only things related to the reproductive organs of humans."

"Right right. No matter what, my nickname is still 'Predator'. Regardless of night or day, whether I am sleeping or awake, the only things I think of is male-female related things — no wait, nothing like that. I have lots of interests other than that."

With that said, Kaichou did the tsukkomi action using her right hand

with a *pishi*. [TLNote: according to the Chinese translator, that means she is slapping onto her sides with the back of her hand. No idea if it is true.]

As expected from the students' council president of the famous St. Ririana Academy. She is surprisingly cooperative at times like these.

"Forget it, the nobles toe the line for just about everything, so screw that. They have a lot of troublesome rules as well, and to be truthful I do not wish to entertain them any longer."

"Yeah. I feel the same as well."

"Ultimately speaking, groups like <The Royal Ten> have long turned into something that is nothing more than just an empty name. The powers and wealth they wield now are nothing compared to their heydays. It is at a point where they have barely managed to retain the shell of their former self. Those who hugs on to that empty shell tightly are just fossils who cannot keep up with things, so they'll probably disintegrate by themselves in the near future."

..... Hmm.

This Kaichou is indeed someone who fits the impression she gives to others.

According to my previous sources, Nikaido is a family with weak standings when it comes to Takanomiya or Arisugawa. I was worried that she may turn into an enemy against me and Akiko, depending on the situation. But now, it somehow feels like I am just worrying too much.

Ahh, thank god, really.

I have mentioned it many times before already. My current relationship with the Takanomiya and Arisugawa is in a very delicate state. Putting

aside the details, the fact is I had took Akiko away in a very forceful manner. For the two families who were deeply embarrassed by it, it is hard to imagine them just letting it go without doing anything.

Under such circumstances, I don't think I need to explain further what will happen should I make enemy with that person - someone who has ties with both sides of the family, is in the students' council, and is also a resident whom I am living together with under the same roof.

Mmm, how really thankful.

In a certain sense, Kaichou is the most elusive person in the students' council. Seems like I can establish a rather good relationship with her.

"Oh, we've been standing around and talking too much. It's about time they are done preparing breakfast, so the training shall stop here for now."

"Ah, you're right. Look at the time."

"I've sweated quite a lot, so I'll take a bath before heading to the canteen. I may be slightly late, so please inform Himenokouji Akiko and Gin-Gin about it."

"Understood. I'll do so."

"Or you can bath together with me?"

"There's no need for that."

"Really? What a pity. I am quite confident in all sorts of *play*, but my bathroom *play* is definitely one of my strongest suit. I
can guarantee you: just five minutes, and you will definitely go to heaven."

"I am still attached to the human world, so I wish to go to neither heaven nor hell."

"Right, I understand. Then three minutes, no wait, just two is enough. As long as you give me that amount of time, I'll definitely come up with a way to do it. The restricted amount of time means I cannot carry out the whole deal, but no worries - you will definitely not be disappointed all the same."

"Forget about two minutes, even if I am to just hand my body over to you for a mere two seconds, I am confident that I will definitely come to regret my decision."

"Kakaka, as uncooperative as ever aye. Whatever, it can't be helped. Since you will be sweating out something else should you take a bath with me."

As she said those things nonchalantly, Kaichou turned her body away. She seemed to be in a good mood.

Oh boy, she's still the same as ever. She is in the heat for twenty-four seven, regardless of where she is at. How very difficult to deal with.

Forget it, since Kaichou is still being surprisingly respectful of others despite all that. Or rather, it seems like she has no intention of forcing others to do as she please. And despite ninety percent of me finding it irritating, the remaining ten percent is actually enjoying the conversations between us.

Mhmm.

She is sloppy, but I quite like this Kaichou of mine.

At then, I felt it is rather fortunate that the president of the students' council of St. Ririana Academy is my superior.

Hopefully, I can continue to get along well with Nikaido Arashi smoothly.

"Ahh right, right."

Kaichou turned back towards me, who was thinking of all those things.

"I've heard something by chance. Can I ask you something?"

" ? What?"

I am still very naive - though that is something I have only came to realize later. A disaster is something that will suddenly appear out of nowhere when it is left forgotten in a corner, or when one gets really careless.

Kaichou lifted the tip of her lips into a smile, and said something that came as a huge impact to my unsuspecting and defenseless mind.

"It's the thing about you and your sister. You two are actually not blood related, right?"